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VOL 4

SPIDER-MAN®

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PETER PARKER'S LIFE GETS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN!

Hollywood heavyweight Reginald Hudlin (*House Party, Boomerang*) has already brought you his searing vision for Black Panther. Now, he's teaming up with red-hot artist Billy Tan (*X-23*) to shake up everyone's favorite web-slinger!

Peter Parker's got an incredible new pad (you won't believe where), a new job, and — although he doesn't know it — a new nemesis who's everything Peter isn't. But first, Spider-Man's got to deal with a more pressing problem: a shape-shifting super-villain who's developed a nasty habit…and will do anything to feed it. And wait, who's that hitting on Mary Jane!?

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REGINALD HUDLIN • BILLY TAN • JON SIBAL

MARVEL KNIGHTS® SPIDER-MAN

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER!?

MNV
MORALES
MO!
-2004-

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WILD BLUE YONDER
PART ONE

JUST PUT AN EXTRA DROP OR TWO IN THERE.

GEEZ, YOU WANNA PUT THE GUY IN A COMA?

REGINALD HUDLIN WRITER | BILLY TAN PENCILS | JOHN SIBAL INKS | AVALON'S IAN HANNIN COLORS | VC'S CORY PETIT LETTERS | STEVE MCNIVEN COVER | CORY SEDLMEIER ASST. EDITOR | AXEL ALONSO EDITOR | JOE QUESADA CHIEF | DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

WHAT'S IN THAT STUFF? SALTPETER?

A LOT STRONGER THAN THAT, ROOKIE.

DON'T GET COMFORTABLE JUST BECAUSE THESE FREAKS ARE IN HIGH-TECH CELLS. WE DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING THEY CAN DO...SOMETIMES THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW ALL OF THEIR POWERS. TILL THEY TRY IT.

THAT'S WHY WE PUT SPECIAL DRUGS IN THEIR FOOD TO KEEP 'EM CHILLED OUT.

FOR EXAMPLE, THIS GUY? HE CAN TURN INTO ANY SUBSTANCE HE TOUCHES AT WILL. HE ALMOST BEAT A NORSE GOD! HE'D RULE THE WORLD IF HE WEREN'T SO STUPID. THE STUFF WE USE ON HIM IS JUST BACKUP.

CREEL? CHOW TIME.

YEAH? WELL, I GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU, TOO...

SWEET JEEZUS!

PRISON BREAK! LOCK DOWN ALL CELLS NOW!

OH BOY...

AT LEAST IT'S NOT AS BAD AS NEW YORK...

NOW WHO'S STUPID? THEY'LL NEVER CATCH ME NOW!

...AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET AWAY WITH NOT KNOWING THE PERIODIC TABLE SO YOU BETTER--

--WE'LL PICK THIS UP TOMORROW.

BZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

...I AM *OUTTA* HERE...

...CAN YOU BELIEVE SHE WORE THAT?

...JUST BEAM ME YOUR NUMBER...

...I WILL *NOT* TOUCH A FROG...

...I KNOW WHAT YOU *DID* TOUCH...

PROTECT

SCIENCE FAIR '03

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MR. PARKER?

YES?

YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD MAKE SCIENCE CLASS COOL?

NO, BUT I AM *SO* HOPING YOU'LL TELL ME.

IF YOU EXPLAINED HOW SUPER HEROES' POWERS WORKED.

LIKE IF YOU EXPLAINED MUTANTS AND COSMIC RAYS AND GAMMA BOMBS AND STUFF...PEOPLE ARE INTO THAT.

COOL. I GET EXTRA CREDIT FOR THE IDEA?

YOU KNOW, THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA. WHATEVER WORKS.

I never thought I could afford to live in a place like this. Of course, I never thought I'd be an Avenger either.

Besides the perks of living in Stark Tower when your family home is destroyed by a super-powered psycho, I got to admit hanging out with other guys who do what you do is kinda nice. "Membership has its advantages," as they say.

DAILY BUGLE
THE ABSORBING MAN ESCAPES!

Absorbing Man--whew! He's tough. Good thing guys like the Avengers handle characters like--

--uh-oh.

BLESS you!

HELP ME OUT-- OR I'LL KEEP PLAYING!

WELCOME HOME, MR. PARKER.

WELL, IT AIN'T QUEENS, BUT IT'LL DO.

HEY, AUNT MAY. THIS KID AT SCHOOL TODAY--

--HAD THE BEST IDEA.

AFTERNOON, MR. PARKER. CARE FOR A SPOT OF TEA?

HUH?

TEA?

UH, NO. WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE, JARVIS? SHOULDN'T YOU BE POLISHING IRON MAN'S HELMET OR SOMETHING?

PETER! IS SOMETHING WRONG?

NO, UH, I GUESS IT'S REALLY NOT MY BUSINESS... IS MARY JANE HOME?

SHE'S DUE BACK ANY MOMENT.

MASTER PETER, THERE'S A BRIEFING ON THE ABSORBING MAN IN THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM AT 1600 HOURS. IT'S OPTIONAL, BUT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO YOU.

YEAH, THANKS FOR "*EVERYTHING*," JARVIS.

OH, DEAR...

MARY JANE--GREAT! HONEY, I REALLY NEED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT THIS WHOLE--

WHAT'S WRONG, PETER?

OH NOTHING... EXCEPT I GET HOME FROM WORK AND FIND AVENGERS HANGING OUT IN MY HOME LIKE IT'S A SINGLES BAR!

OH, YEAH? CAN SCOTT SUMMERS CONFIRM THAT FOR ME?

YOU'RE OUT OF LINE THERE, BUB. I DON'T DO THAT.

TEAMMATE OR NOT, NOBODY MOUTHS OFF TO ME LIKE THAT.

DON'T GET CUTE AND POP THOSE BOTTLE OPENERS. I WILL PERMANENTLY WEB THEM UP YOUR--

ANGEL

ALL RIGHT, CAVEMEN--BREAK IT UP.

PARKER, AS A GUY WITH A TEMPER, I'M TELLING YA--COOL DOWN.

COOL DOWN? LOOK, HEDGEHOG--

YOU'RE HAVING A FLASH THOMPSON FLASHBACK, TIGER, LET IT GO. YOU WON A LONG TIME AGO.

YOU DON'T THINK I'D ACTUALLY BE ATTRACTED TO A HAIRY MIDGET, DO YOU?

HEY, YOU MARRIED ME!

HOLD THE TRAIN! *HOLD THE TRAIN!*

THE NEXT MORNING.

THANKS, I COULDN'T AFFORD TO BE LATE FOR WORK AGAIN.

NOT IN THIS ECONOMY. WHERE DO YOU WORK?

I TEACH HIGH-SCHOOL SCIENCE.

YIKES! GOD BLESS YOU, MAN. MY PARENTS WERE TEACHERS. BUT I JUST COULDN'T TAKE A VOW OF POVERTY TO DO THE SAME.

SO WHY ARE YOU HEADED OUT TO QUEENS THIS--

SKKKKKKKKEEEEEEEEEEE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE A DISTURBANCE ON THE TRACKS!

WHY DIDN'T YOU FALL?

GUM ON MY SHOE.

AW MAN, I'M GONNA BE LATE FOR WORK-- AGAIN!

OKAY, I HOPE EVERYBODY'S LOOKING AT THE ACTION BELOW...

....I HOPE THE TRAIN DOESN'T START MOVING, HOPE I DON'T TOUCH THE THIRD RAIL--

--OH NO! MY KEYS!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE BASICS OF THIS SUPER-HERO THING STILL ELUDE ME.

AWWW, LEMME JUST KNOCK THIS CREEP OUT AND GET TO WORK.

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BANK

YIKES!
HEY, RENT-A-COP! YOU'RE NOT HURTING HIM...BUT SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT CATCH A STRAY ONE!
LEAVE ME ALONE! YA BUGGING ME!
DID YOU EVEN KNOW THAT WAS A PUN?
DOUBT IT. ANYONE STUPID ENOUGH TO ROB A BANK...I MEAN, WHAT WAS YOUR "HAUL"? TWO OR THREE GRAND?
WHAT'S STUPID ABOUT ROBBING A BANK? I JUST NEED WALKING-AROUND MONEY...
IN FACT, LET'S SEE WHAT I GOT HERE...
BOOOSH!
LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT.
OH, WAIT. THIS WON'T MAKE YOU RUST, WILL IT?
UH, EXCUSE ME, PEOPLE.
DON'T YOU ALL SEE A VERY DANGEROUS SUPER-VILLAIN HERE? CLEAR OUT!!! YOU PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW BETTER!
THAT'S RIGHT! BEAT IT! YOU COULD GET HURT!

NOT GOOD.

OW!

INCREASED MASS DOESN'T ALWAYS EQUAL GREATER DENSITY, BIG BOY. NOT THAT I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU OUT...

UGHHH!

SEE IF THIS IS HARD ENOUGH FOR YA...

...BURP ...THINK I'M GONNA...

BWAAAH!

I...DON'... FEEL...SO... GOOD.

NO KIDDING. THAT WAS DISGUSTING!

LOOK, HE'S NORMAL AGAIN. WE CAN TAKE HIM!

YOU FIRST.

DOES IT STINK?

NOT LIKE THAT, STUPID. THE GUY WAS MADE OF STREET. HE THREW UP ROCKS AND TAR AND... DEBRIS. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

WHEN THE THING THROWS UP, DOES HIS VOMIT LOOK LIKE THIS?

AAAAHHH!

WHERE... IS...HE...?

HE SHRUNK DOWN AND BOOKED... RAN THAT AWAY.

HE JUST RAN AWAY? NOBODY DID ANYTHING?

HEY, I DON'T EVEN WANT REGULAR THROW-UP ON ME.

Took me an hour to get cleaned up and I still got gunk in my hair...

PARKER!

SORRY I'M LATE, THERE WAS SOME KIND OF SUPER-HERO FIGHT AND THE E TRAIN GOT HELD UP...

I CAN STILL MAKE THE SECOND HALF OF MY CLASS--

DON'T BOTHER.

I HEARD ABOUT IT ON THE RADIO. I FIGURED YOU GOT CAUGHT UP IN THAT. NOT THAT IT'S A VALID EXCUSE.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT WASN'T MY FAULT THE TRAIN WAS LATE--

YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT?

IT'S ALWAYS SOME EXCUSE WITH YOU, PARKER. WELL, THIS TIME, EXCUSES DON'T MATTER. TURNS OUT WE OVERESTIMATED OUR STAFFING NEEDS FOR SUMMER SCHOOL. WE FIGURED WHOEVER WOULD MAKE IT HERE FIRST WOULD GET THE LAST JOB.

SORRY, SON. SEE YOU NEXT FALL.

What *IS* this? How did my life drop into a new heretofore-undiscovered sub-basement of Hell today?

I gotta get some money to move out of Stark Tower. I need a job--quick.

WHERE IS IT? WHERE IS IT?!!

WAITAMINUTE... YEAH THIS IS IT!

IS THIS WHAT THE MIGHTY ABSORBING MAN IS REDUCED TO...?

SNEAK UP ON ME? I'LL KILL--

...WHOOO, IT'S KICKING IN. THAT'S MORE LIKE IT...

DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF WHAT YOU NEED. MY EMPLOYER WILL KEEP YOU STRAIGHT IN RETURN FOR SOME FAVORS...

...A DRUGSTORE COWBOY FEEDING HIS JAILHOUSE HABIT?

...EMPLOYER?

DAILY BUGLE

I hate sweating Jameson for a full-time job, but there's no other employer in town that's known me longer.

Sure the *Bugle* can be a rag, especially when it comes to me, but my other options are worse. Better this than becoming paparazzi, hanging out in front of Mary-Kate and Ashley's dorm room for a glimpse of them eating ice cream!

PETER? PETER PARKER?

UH...HI! AND YOU ARE...?

IS THAT PARKER? GET *IN* HERE!

OH! SORRY ABOUT THAT!

NO. MY BAD.

GOOD. YOU GUYS HAVE MET!

OH NO, I'VE DONE IT AGAIN. I'M SUCH AN OX--

OKAY, MAYBE YOU ARE.

PARKER! GLAD TO SEE YOU!

PARKER, I WANT YOU TO MEET ETHAN EDWARDS. HE'S OUR NEW STAR REPORTER. JUST MOVED HERE FROM THE STICKS--

IOWA, ACTUALLY.

--BUT HE'S ALREADY MADE A SPLASH IN THE BIG CITY.

GREAT TO MEET YOU.

LIKEWISE.

SEE HOW THE FARM BOY DRESSES? NICE SUIT AND TIE? HE JUST GOT THE HAY OUT OF HIS HAIR AND HE'S ALREADY GOT MORE CLASS THAN MOST OF THE SLOBS IN THIS BUILDING.

ETHAN'S BROKEN SOME *BIG* STORIES FOR US. I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DID IT. IT'S LIKE HE'S GOT X-RAY EYEBALLS OR SUPER-HEARING OR SOMETHING.

NEVER MISSES A DEADLINE. NO TYPOS IN HIS COPY. NEVER ASKS FOR OVER-TIME. THE KID'S A STAR!

JONAH WANTS ETHAN TO DO A BIG STORY ON SPIDER-MAN.

IT'S TIME FOR THE UNSUNG HERO, THE REGULAR JOE OF THE LONG UNDERWEAR SET TO GET SOME RESPECT. I *KNOW* YOU GET ME, RIGHT, PARKER?

OH YEAH, JONAH, NO DOUBT.

SO WHEN YOU WALK IN--*BOOM!* IT'S A SIGN, DIVINE PROVIDENCE. ETHAN WRITES THE STORY, YOU TAKE THE PICTURES. NO ONE'S TAKEN BETTER PICTURES OF SPIDER-MAN THAN YOU HAVE OVER THE YEARS, AND YOUR "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH THE SUBJECT WILL COME IN HANDY HERE.

THE QUESTION IS--CAN YOU HANDLE IT, PARKER? 'CAUSE YOU'RE A BIT OF A FLAKE. BUT MAYBE SPENDING SOME QUALITY TIME WITH ETHAN HERE WILL RUB OFF ON YA.

WELL, IT SOUNDS GOOD...BUT FOR ME TO DO THIS... I NEED A FULL-TIME POSITION ON THE PAPER.

FULL-TIME?

YEAH, FULL BENEFIT PACKAGE AND EVERYTHING.

BUT AD SALES ARE *DOWN*...

DON'T WORRY, JONAH... IT'LL PROBABLY END UP COSTING US LESS IN THE LONG RUN.

YOU DID THE MATH THAT FAST?

I DID IT YEARS AGO.

YOU MEAN I'VE BEEN OVERPAYING THIS CLOWN ALL THIS TIME?

OKAY THEN...BUT YOU'LL START ON A PROBATIONARY PERIOD--

PROBA--I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR THIS PAPER SINCE HIGH SCHOOL! I TOOK PICTURES OF SPIDER-BOY.

FINE... ROBBIE?

I'LL HANDLE IT.

WELL, LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS ARE A TEAM.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS, PETER.

SAME HERE.

Man, this guy is setting my Spider Sense off in a big way. What is it about him? He looks so familiar...I can't place it.

ALL RIGHT, BOYS, YOU'VE GOT MY TRUST, YOU'VE GOT MY MONEY, NOW DON'T SCREW IT UP.

That went way easier than expected. Man, Jonah looks even creepier when he smiles.

Hmmm, where'd that pretty blonde go?

YOU WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A LIST. YOU WILL KILL EVERY PERSON ON THIS LIST IN 72 HOURS. IN RETURN, YOU WILL GET ALL THE PHARMACEUTICAL GRADE NARCOTIC YOU DESIRE.

GIVEN YOUR SPECIAL ABILITIES, COMPLETING THIS TASK SHOULD BE EASY. SO THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE WILL BE ESPECIALLY HARSH.

I DON'T SCARE EASY...BUT DON'T SWEAT IT. I'LL GET THIS JOB DONE IN--*HEY!*

YOU GOT A COUPLE'A CAPES ON THIS LIST.

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE JOB?

NAW, JOB IS EASY. I'M JUST SAYING, THAT'S A LOTTA HEAT ON ME AFTER I DO IT.

DON'T WORRY, CREEL, I WILL MAKE SURE THEY NEVER FIND YOU.

ALL RIGHT. HAVE MY STUFF WAITING FOR ME. THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.

OBVIOUSLY, ALL OF US ARE COMBAT VETERANS WITH YEARS OF EXPERIENCE. BUT THE AVENGERS FUNCTION BEST AS A WELL-DRILLED TEAM WHOSE MEMBERS CAN ANTICIPATE EACH OTHER'S MOVES.

WE'LL BREAK INTO TWO TEAMS. SPIDER-MAN, LUKE CAGE, AND MYSELF ON ONE TEAM. IRON MAN, WOLVERINE AND SPIDER-WOMAN ON THE OTHER.

SKIRMISH BEGINS IN 5, 4, 3, 2--

NO JOKES THIS TIME?

HERE'S ONE I LIKE.

YEAH, NOW THAT WAS FUNNY!

TAG, YOU'RE IT, BOY!

LOGAN... YOU IDIOT...

OH MY GOD! HE'S BEEN *STABBED!*

TO BE CONTINUED

MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN

Wait a second? Who's that invading Spidey's airspace? You'll have to wait 30 days to find out, but in the meantime save those pennies because we've got even more coming your way from our MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDEY madmen REGGIE HUDLIN and BILLY TAN!

In fact, how could we be so cruel to make you wait? BLACK PANTHER #3 is on sale today! That's, like, right now! Trot on down the aisle and pick up a copy of the action-packed new series by REGGIE HUDLIN and the incomparable JOHN ROMITA JR. This one's the toast of 2005, celebrated everywhere from Variety to The New York Times! Be careful though, True Believer, you may have to slip on your vibranium gloves to handle a series this epic!

Black Panther #3

The tour-de-force origin of X-23 reaches fever pitch with issue #5! On sale April 20th with artwork by MK's very own BILLY TAN and JON SIBAL! If you haven't picked up this red-hot series yet, please consult your physician—now! You may be in need of medical help!

X23 #5

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NEXT ISSUE:

Ummm...Cap? Spidey's got a biiiig ouchie! And how about a little more of that mystery lady?

MARVEL MK

MARVEL PSR 14

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PREVIOUSLY IN MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN

"WILD BLUE YONDER"

PART II OF VI

Peter Parker's life has been turned upside down. His house has been leveled by a super-villain so he's moved his family into a new pad—Avengers Mansion… His summer-school teaching job fell through so he's finagled a summer job at the *Daily Bugle*… And if that weren't enough: the Owl has placed a price on Spidey's head that the Absorbing Man, aided by a certain sultry and mysterious female, is looking to cash in on.

And how about the *Bugle's* new star reporter! Ethan Edwards is his name, and he's the ace in J. Jonah Jameson's deck and the bane of Peter's existence. There's something about the guy that just doesn't seem right, but don't tell that to Jonah—he thinks that Ethan and Peter are the perfect team to cover his number one personal fixation: Spider-Man.

That said, Peter's got more a more immediate problem. A little Avengers training session that got a little, shall we say, out of hand…

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KRASH

DAMMIT. I *KNEW* THE SAFE-ROOM SHOULDA BEEN ON THE FIRST FLOOR!

KRUNCH

CUBAN! NICE.

OKAY, THAT WAS GOOD, BUT WHY DON'T YOU SWITCH IT UP SOMETIMES?

WHADDYA MEAN?

WELL, I JUST NOTICE YOU USE THE SAME PLAN OF ATTACK EVERY TIME: TOUCH METAL, TURN YOUR FIST INTO A HAMMER, SMASH THINGS.

HEY--IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT, LADY.

I'M JUST SAYING, THAT KIND OF PREDICTABILITY CAN GIVE A MORE SOPHISTICATED OPPONENT AN EDGE IN A BATTLE IF--

ARE YOU CALLING ME STUPID? I HATE WHEN PEOPLE CALL ME STUPID!

WHA--NO! HOW COULD *YOU* BE STUPID? JUST LOOK AT YOUR NAME. "CRUSHER CREEL"--THAT'S CREATIVE RIGHT THERE!

GOOD POINT. NOW WHAT WERE YOU SAYIN'...?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT!

Y-YOU SNIKKED ME!

WILD BLUE YONDER PART TWO

REGINALD HUDLIN WRITER	BILLY TAN PENCILS	JOHN SIBAL INKS	AVALON'S IAN HANNIN COLORS	VC'S CORY PETIT LETTERS	STEVE MCNIVEN COVER	CORY SEDLMEIER ASST. EDITOR	AXEL ALONSO EDITOR	JOE QUESADA CHIEF	DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

MAN UP, PARKER. IT'S JUST A SCRATCH.

AGHK! PETER, I'M ONLY GONNA SAY THIS *ONE* TIME. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! AGH!

OUCH! PETEY, NOT THAT I DON'T-- *OPH!*--DESERVE THIS, BUT--

--JEEZUS THAT *HURTS!*

CALM DOWN, PETER. WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

THANKS, CAP, BUT I GOT THIS ONE.

LITTLE HELP HERE?

IT SEEMS TO BE RESOLVING ITSELF.

WAS ME, I'D BE DOING THE SAME THING.

C'MON GUYS, A LITTLE PROFESSIONALISM?

OKAY--BREAK IT UP. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, PETER!

"ACCIDENT"? I COME HOME, FIND MY TEAMMATE HITTING ON MY WIFE, THEN HE "ACCIDENTALLY" SKEWERS ME?

WHAT?

YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT? PETER, YOU'RE A NERD WHO FINALLY GOT A HOT CHICK. I'M HAPPY FOR YOU, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN EVERYONE IS AFTER HER.

THAT'S IT! I'M BEATING THE FUR OFF YOU!

ALL UPSET OVER A LITTLE SCRATCH...

HOW'D HE GET LOOSE?

BLOOD MADE HIM SLIPPERY.

STAND BACK, EVERY-BODY--I'M ABOUT TO KICK...

...LOGAN'S...

...?...

HE'S OUT COLD. BLOOD LOSS.

IF WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE, I DON'T CARE WHAT YOUR BONES *ARE* MADE OUT OF. THEY'LL BREAK.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT XAVIER PUTS UP WITH, LOGAN, BUT THIS KIND OF ACTIVITY IS NOT TOLERATED IN THE AVENGERS.

I'VE KNOWN YOU A LONG TIME, SO I'M WILLING TO GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT. BUT YOU *KNOW* I'LL DO WHAT I HAVE TO IF THIS IS A CONTINUING PROBLEM.

THAT'S *IT?* YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY?

IF HE WANTS TO PLAY WITH THE BIG BOYS, HE'S GOTTA LEARN THAT STUFF HAPPENS.

YOU WANT ME *OUT*, JUST LET ME KNOW.

LATER

WHAT'S WRONG, PETER? YOU'VE BEEN MOODY ALL NIGHT. I THOUGHT YOU LIKED MY MEATLOAF.

I'M JUST TIRED...I THINK I'LL GO TO BED EARLY.

MY GOD-- WHAT *HAPPENED* TO YOU, TIGER? I THOUGHT YOU ONLY HAD A WORKOUT SESSION TONIGHT?

DON'T SWEAT IT. EVEN THOUGH BEING AN AVENGER DOESN'T PAY, THEY'VE GOT A GREAT HEALTH PLAN.

PETER...

IT'S NOTHING, MJ. JUST A FLESH WOUND. I PROMISE I'LL TAKE IT EASY THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

I PROMISE...

THE NEXT MORNING.

HEY, WE MEET AGAIN. HOW'S LIFE?

NOT FUN. GOTTA MAKE SOME DOUGH...NEW JOB... GOTTA BUY A HOUSE FOR THE FAMILY...

WELL CONGRATS ON THE NEW JOB-- WHERE AT?

THE *DAILY* BUGLE.

SORRY.

PARKER! YOUR FIRST FULL-TIME DAY, HUH? DON'T WASTE IT LOLLYGAGGING--

OWWWW!

--YOU AND ETHAN HAVE SOME HERO-HUNTING TO DO.

WHAK

PETER! READY TO GO?

UH... *SUUUURE.*

UHM, PETER, I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE BUT...YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.

I KNOW, DON'T WORRY, I'M TAKING SOMETHING FOR IT.

PETER, I DON'T MEAN TO WEIRD YOU OUT, I KNOW FOLKS IN THE "BIG CITY" FIND THIS QUAINT, BUT--

HAVE YOU *PRAYED* TODAY?

PRAYED...?

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE RELIGIOUS, OR WHAT YOUR FAITH IS, BUT YOU'D BE SURPRISED WHAT A LITTLE FAITH WOULD DO.

I KNOW IT'S HARD TO TAKE TIME AND STOP, BUT I BET IF YOU FOUND A QUIET PLACE--

--LIKE *RIGHT IN HERE!*

ETHAN! WHAT THE--?

WHOA--LITTLE TIGHT IN HERE, RIGHT? NEW YORKERS HAVE A THING WITH PERSONAL SPACE--

IF YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES, TAKE A DEEP BREATH, OPEN YOUR HEART TO THE LORD...

...JUST A SILENT PRAYER WILL MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE...

A LITTLE PUSHY, ETHAN, BUT I'LL FOLLOW ALONG...

FEEL BETTER?

HEY. I...*DO.* WOW.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF PRAYER, PETER.

NOW LET'S GO FIND SPIDER-MAN!

...HOW MANY GUYS HE SNUFFED SO FAR?

LEAST THREE. HEARD HE GOT TONY S. THIS MORNING. TURNED INTO DOG-POOP AN' *SMOTHERED* 'IM.

THAT IS NOT A DIGNIFIED EXIT.

WELL, IF HE SHOWS UP HERE, WE GOT A LITTLE SOMETHIN' FOR HIM.

THESE GUNS FIRE EVERY KIND OF ROUND--FROM DUM DUM BULLETS TO ELECTRIC SHOCKS.

PLUS THEY'RE DIPPED IN *POISON!* AND BLESSED BY FATHER ANGELO!

SOMETHIN' WILL KILL THAT FREA--

SMAK

--GHK!

HE'S HERE! SHOOT SHOOT SHOOT!!!!

YA MISSED!

WHUD

IMPRESSED YET, LADY?

A GIANT STEP IN IMAGINATION, YES.

YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET.

AYYY, BIG TONY! COME GETCHER BEATIN'!

I-I-I'LL TRIPLE WHAT HE'S PAYIN' YA!

THAT'S ALL? THE LAST BIG SHOT OFFERED ME FOUR TIMES! NOW I'M *REALLY* MAD!

...SO, YOU AND SPIDER-MAN HAVE A...*RELATIONSHIP* OF SOME KIND?

YEAH. I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO GET SOME GOOD SHOTS OF HIM AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS CAREER. HE KNEW HE NEEDED SOME GOOD PRESS TO COUNTERACT JONAH'S ATTACKS ON HIM, AND A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS--

SO SAYS THE PHOTOGRAPHER. SO HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE'S GOING TO BE IN ACTION?

CRASH

TAXI

HELP! SOMEBODY!

WHERE'RE YOU *GOING?*

WHERE YOU'RE GOING. WE'RE COVERING THIS TOGETHER, RIGHT?

LOOK, YOU GO INTO THE CROWD, GET THEIR REACTION. I'M GOING FOR A HIGH ANGLE.

ARE YOU TRYING TO GET RID OF ME?

DON'T BE WEIRD, ETHAN.

UHM. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT HAPPENS LIKE THIS *ALL THE TIME.*

Sidekicks...what a pain. I'll never change in time to catch that guy. I'll never change in time to catch that guy.

YOU SEE THAT GUY RUN UP THE SIDE OF THE WALL LIKE THAT?

HE MUST BE--

DAREDEVIL!

OKAY, AT LEAST THE MASK IS ON. LEMME WEB THIS GUY TO THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING, THEN I CAN FINISH GETTING DRESSED WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THAT POOR GUY BECOMING SIDEWALK PIZZA...

THWIP

WHAP

YOU AIN'T SAVIN' NOBODY TODAY!

I'M ABOUT SICK OF YOU, SPIDEY!

THINGS ARE NOT GOING YOUR WAY, ARE THEY, MR. ABSORBING SQUAREPANTS?

GLUMPH.

BE RIGHT BACK!

KILL HIM *QUICKLY!* WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

MY HAND'S STUCK TO THE--

KRACK

WHOA! GOOD CATCH! NOW PUT ME DOWN, WHOEVER-THE-HECK-YOU-ARE!

ANOTHER UNGRATEFUL NEW YORKER SAVED.

MISS ME?

HERE, CHANGE INTO *THIS* AND GET FREE!

SPLASH

WAIT, I'M NOT--

-REEEEAAADDDY!

SPLOOSH

TURNING INTO WATER. CLEVER GETAWAY FOR SUCH A LUNKHEAD.

WELL, AT LEAST THAT GIVES ME A CHANGE TO SLIP INTO SOMETHING MORE COMFORTABLE BEFORE I--

AW, JEEZ...HE BEAT THEM TO DEATH...

IT WAS *TERRIBLE!* THEY CRASHED THROUGH MY CEILING WITH GUNS AND....

OH, *REALLY...?*

HOLD ON. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT BLAMING *ME* FOR ALL THIS! A BUNCH OF CRIMINALS BURST INTO MY APARTMENT AND IT'S MY FAULT?

YOU KNOW, I MIGHT FALL FOR THAT IF MY SPIDER-SENSE WEREN'T TINGLING LIKE A PINCHED NERVE--

--OH, FINE THEN.

YEE-OW! TALK ABOUT TRUST YOUR GUT!

YOU THINK I WON'T HIT A GIRL?

LIKE I SAID--

SPIDER-SENSE.

TURN INTO SOMETHING ELSE! *LIGHTER! FASTER!*

SHADDUP AND LET ME DO MY BUSINESS, LADY!

YEAH, WHAT *HE* SAID.

THWIP

IN FACT, LET'S MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GET ANY MORE BRIGHT IDEAS. OPEN--

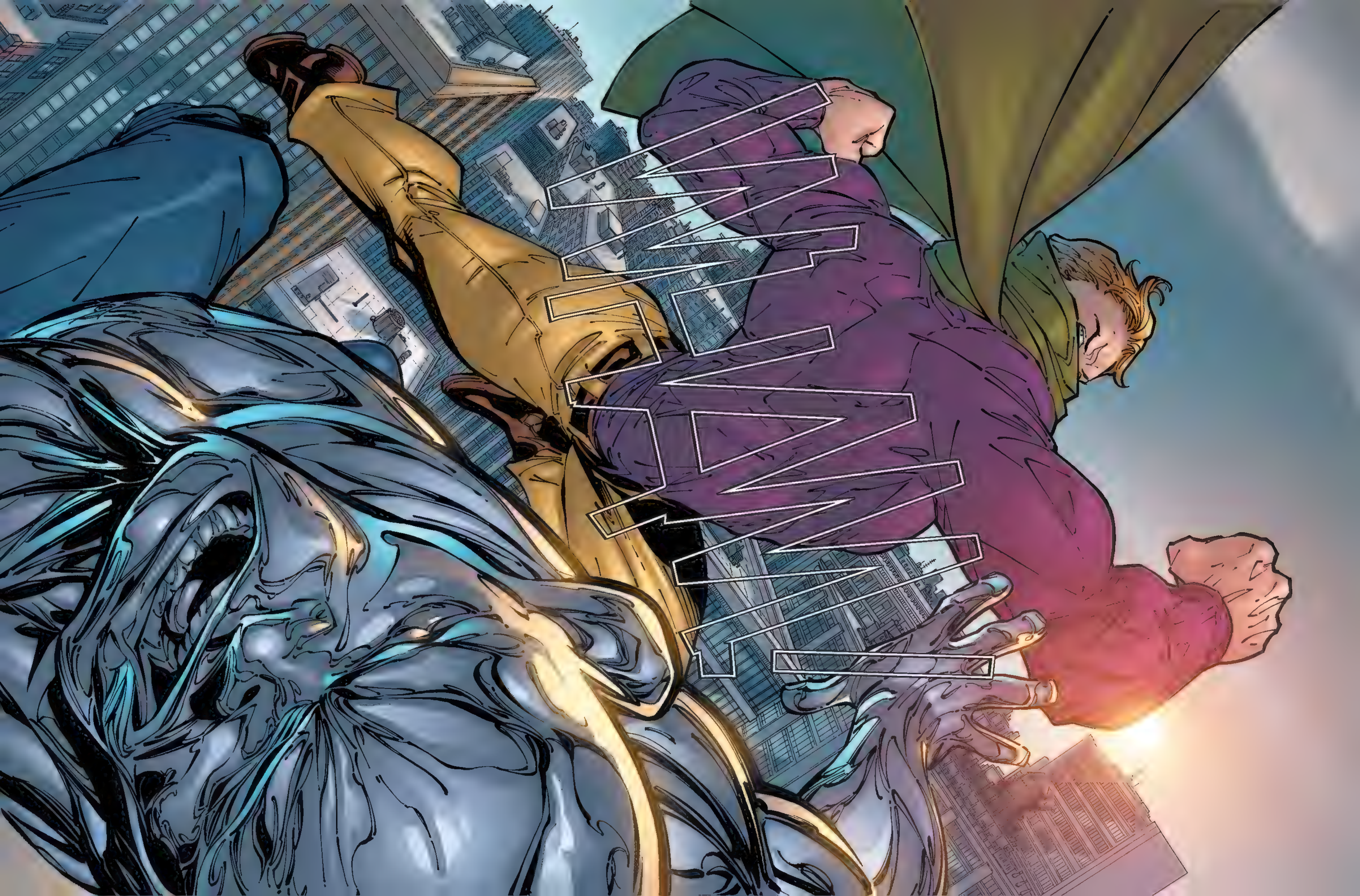
--WIDE.

OKAY, YOU'RE GOOD.

THAT'S RIGHT, SHE'S GOOD! THIS ALUMI-ALUMA...THIS *METAL* IS LIGHT, BUT SHARP ENOUGH TO CUT HIM *BAD!* THIS IS GONNA BE--

...

OH NO...HE'S GONNA *HURL* AGAIN!



WOW, YOU KNOCKED HIM TO...

...IS THAT *HOBOKEN?*

I DON'T THINK WE'VE MET. NICE PANTS. DOCKERS?

WAIT! WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?

OH WELL, THERE GOES *THAT* TEAM-UP...

OF COURSE, THE NINJA LADY IS LONG *GONE.*

...AND WITH MY WALLET...

NOK NOK

IT'S ME. IS HE STILL HERE?

EVER SINCE HE LANDED A FEW BLOCKS AWAY.

THE OWL APPRECIATES YOUR HELP.

HEY, I JUST WANT HIM *OUT* OF HERE. HE'S CREEPING OUT MY OTHER CUSTOMERS.

CRUSHER CREEL! ON YOUR FEET!

LEAVE ME ALONE, LADY...

SO, YOU GOT PUNCHED ACROSS A STATE LINE. BOO-HOO. GET UP--YOU'VE GOT ***WORK*** TO DO!

WE HAVE TO PAY SOMEONE A *VISIT*.

TO BE CONTINUED

MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN

Black Panther #4

The hottest thing since sliced bread knocks it up another notch as Klaw, the Rhino, Radioactive Man, Batroc and the Black Knight mount an invasion force into Wakanda. With art by John Romita Jr., Klaus Janson and Dean White you don't want to miss out on this legend in the making!

X-23 #6

This is it! The no-holds-barred conclusion to the origin of X-23 by MKSM's very own Billy Tan and Jon Sibal. Miss this baby and you're missing the hottest new character to meet the letter "X" in a decade!

More from the MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN maniacs REGGIE HUDLIN and BILLY TAN!

CORY SEDLMEIER
ASST. EDITOR

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MARK E-MAIL "OKAY TO PRINT"

NEXT ISSUE:

Comicdom's greatest odd couple team-up as the Absorbing Man strikes again!

MARVEL MK 15

REGINALD HUDLIN • BILLY TAN • MARK BUCKINGHAM

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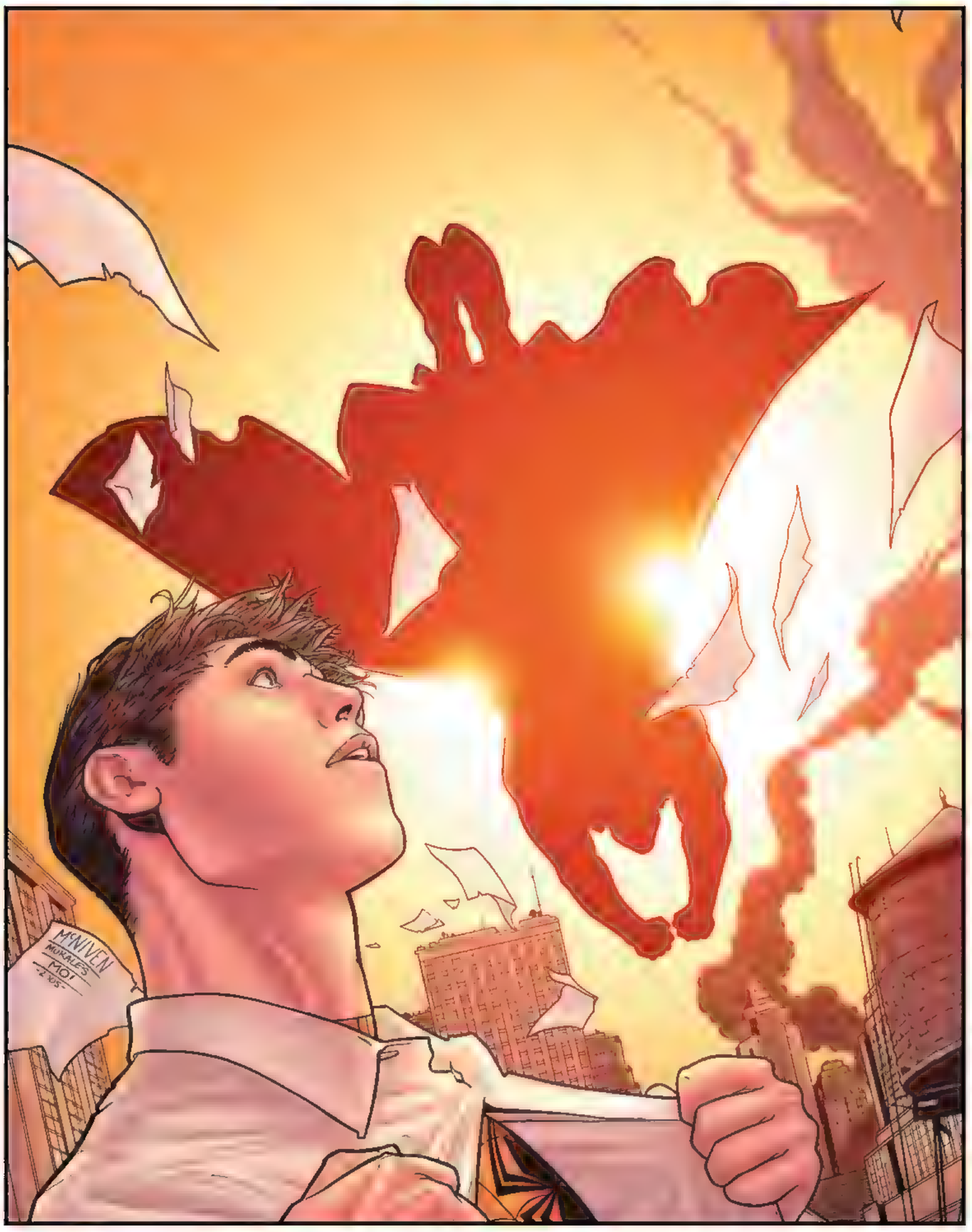
PREVIOUSLY IN MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN

"WILD BLUE YONDER"

PART III OF VI



Peter Parker's life has been turned upside down. His house has been leveled by a super-villain so he's moved his family into a new pad—Avengers Tower… His summer-school teaching job fell through so he's finagled a summer job at the *Daily Bugle*… And if that weren't enough: the Owl has placed a bounty on the head of Spidey's head that Crusher Creel—aka The Absorbing Man—and his mysterious female consultant, is looking to collect.

And how about the *Bugle*'s new star reporter! Ethan Edwards is his name, and he's the ace in J. Jonah Jameson's deck and the bane of Peter's existence. When Jonah gets the bright idea to pair up Ethan and Peter to cover his number one personal fixation—Spider-Man—it's only a matter of time before they fall into trouble.

Happening upon the scene of one of Creel's hits, Peter ditches Ethan – and his civilian clothes—and rushes to the rescue.

He's barely traded blows with Creel, however, before help comes: A mysterious being swoops down from the sky, punches the Absorbing Man to another state—*literally*—and then flies off without a word, leaving a puzzled Spidey behind.

And when Spidey goes to recover his clothes, he discovers something missing:

His wallet.

WRITER	PENCILERS	INKERS	COLORISTS	LETTERER
REGINALD HUDLIN	BILLY TAN & MARK BUCKINGHAM	JON SIBAL & MARK BUCKINGHAM	AVALON'S IAN HANNIN & D'ISRAELI	VC's CORY PETIT

COVER	ASST. EDITOR	EDITOR	CHIEF	PUBLISHER
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FREEZE!

GUYS, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. SOMEBODY STOLE MY WALLET.

HOW ABOUT WE DISCUSS A COUPLE HUNDRED-THOUSAND WORTH OF PROPERTY DAMAGE FIRST? PERHAPS DOWN AT THE STATION?

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THAT UP WITH THE ABSORBING MAN? YOU KNOW, THE 20-FOOT-TALL GUY MADE OF IRON, STEEL AND MARBLE?

ONE WEIRDO AT A TIME.

SHEESH, I'M OUTTA HERE.

HE'S JUMPING!

NOW, HOW AM I GOING TO FIND THE LADY WHO STOLE MY WALLET AFTER TRYING TO GUT ME WITH THROWING STA--

RRRRFFFF!!

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

WILD BLUE YONDER PART THREE

REGINALD HUDLIN WRITER | BILLY TAN PENCILS 1-12,14-15 & 22 JOHN SIBAL INKS 1-12,14-15 & 22 | AVALON'S IAN HANNIN COLORS | MARK BUCKINGHAM PENCILS & INKS 13 & 16-21 D'ISRAELI COLORS 13 & 16-21 | VC'S CORY PETIT LETTERS | STEVE MCNIVEN COVER

CORY SEDLMEIER ASST. EDITOR | AXEL ALONSO EDITOR | JOE QUESADA CHIEF | DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

WITH ALL THESE CHARACTERS FLYING AROUND, THAT MUST HAPPEN TO YOU ALL THE TIME, HUH?

WELL ACTUALLY, NO.

DIDJA SEE WHERE THAT WOMAN RAN OFF TO? THE ONE WITH THE GUY YOU PUNCHED TO JERSEY.

GOSH NO, BUT WE CAN LOOK FOR HER. JUST HOP ON MY BACK.

HEY, HOLD ON THERE--

MARVEL

REPSI

MODOK

WAIT!

IT'S NO PROBLEM, JUST HOLD ON... I'LL TRY AND FLY STEADY.

JEEZ. I'M WEARING A MASK AND I'M *STILL* EMBARRASSED.

WHOA, BIG FELLA! I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING THIS FAST. NOT TO MENTION I'M GETTING BUGS ON MY VISORS.

DON'T WORRY. EVEN AT THIS SPEED I CAN SEE THROUGH MOST ANYTHING.

OH YEAH? DOES THAT MEAN YOU CAN SEE THROUGH MY MASK? DO YOU KNOW WHO I REALLY *AM?*

ER... UH, I MEAN... I WOULD NEVER TELL ANYONE PETER!

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL FIND HER IN NO TIME.

I KNEW IT! I CAN'T BELIEVE TWO PEOPLE FIND OUT MY SECRET IDENTITY IN ONE DAY!

UH, YOU'RE KIND OF ADDING TO THE WIND RESISTANCE WHEN YOU STAND...

LAND ON ONE OF THESE ROOFTOPS *RIGHT NOW,* ETHAN.

NOW WHY DID YOU CALL ME ETH--

CUT IT *OUT*, ETHAN. YOU KNOW WHO I AM, AND YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO GAME WHEN IT COMES TO KEEPING A SECRET.

YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST PRETENDED YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS.

BUT THAT WOULD BE *LYING*.

LOOK, JUDGING BY YOUR OUTFIT, YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NEW AT THIS. BUT YOU CAN'T GO AROUND WITH THE KIND OF POWER YOU HAVE--AND I'M REFERRING TO *INFORMATION*, IN THIS CASE--AND BE SO GULLIBLE. THIS *IS* NEW YORK!

DON'T REMIND ME. I HATE IT HERE. THE NOISE, THE SMELLS. CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU CAN HEAR AND TASTE EVERYTHING FOR MILES?

YEESH! AND I THOUGHT RIDING THE SUBWAY WAS NASTY!

LOOK, SINCE YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT ME, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF?

IT'S KIND OF A LONG STORY. SHOULDN'T WE FIND THE BAD GUYS FIRST?

MY *WALLET*--ALMOST FORGOT!

SEE YA, ETHAN. GOTTA SEE A MAN ABOUT A DOG.

PUT YOUR CLOTHES BACK ON AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT TILL I GET BACK TO THE OFFICE, OKAY?

DO YOU WANT A LIFT?

NO!

HMMM. THIS IS A SETBACK. IF HIS NEW YORK APARTMENT AND HIS NEXT OF KIN'S HOME IN QUEENS ARE BOTH DESTROYED... SOMEONE MUST HAVE FIGURED OUT WHO HE IS BEFORE THIS. HE'S PROBABLY DEEP UNDERCOVER NOW.

C'MON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE YOU GET *ID'D*.

WHAT? LIKE I'M SCARED OF THE COPS?

'COURSE NOT. I JUST DON'T WANT THAT FLYING GUY TO COME BACK AROUND AND KNOCK YOU TO PENNSYLVANIA.

HEY, HE GOT LUCKY WITH THAT ONE!

NO, *YOU* WERE LUCKY THERE WAS A CRACK HOUSE NEARBY FOR YOU TO CRAWL INTO AND SNIFF YOUR WOUNDS.

I COULD GRIND YOUR BONES TO--

BUT YOU ***WON'T.*** YOU NEED DRUGS, AND WITHOUT ME ORGANIZING THINGS YOU'LL GO BACK TO BEING A DRUGSTORE COWBOY KNOCKING OVER PHARMACIES TO FEED YOUR HABIT. INSTEAD OF BEING RICH ENOUGH TO BUY YOUR OWN PRIVATE ISLAND.

YOU COULD *BE* YOUR OWN PRIVATE ISLAND.

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO DAMN SMART.

SHUT UP AND GET IN THE CAR.

CRESSKILL, NEW JERSEY

SO, HANK, YOU DON'T MISS THE CITY AT ALL?

I ALWAYS KEPT A PLACE UP HERE. I JUST WAS IN MANHATTAN FOR AVENGERS BUSINESS. NOW THAT CHAPTER IN MY LIFE IS FINALLY CLOSED, AND I DON'T MISS CONSTANT REMINDERS OF LOST FRIENDS AT ALL.

BUT I SUSPECT THAT'S NOT WHY YOU'RE HERE.

OKAY... THIS IS KIND OF EMBARRASSING...

YOU CAN'T TOP MY CAREER IN THE EMBARRASSMENT CATEGORY. I MEAN, JUST FOR BUILDING ULTRON ALONE...

SOMEBODY STOLE MY WALLET.

PFFFT

THANKS FOR BEING SO UNDER-STANDING...

SORRY, IT'S SO PETTY BUT SO MESSED UP...IT'S HILARIOUS...

...UH-OH, NOW I'VE CONTAMINATED THIS EXPERIMENT.

KARMA.

OBVIOUSLY.

OKAY. I'VE GOT NO INTEREST IN JUMPING INTO MY TIGHTS AGAIN, BUT I COULD ORDER ANTS OVER A SPECIFIC AREA TO SEARCH FOR SOMETHING. IF YOU KNOW WHERE IT MIGHT BE AND WHAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR...

I MEAN, BESIDES A WALLET, THAT'S KIND OF VAGUE FOR ANYONE, ESPECIALLY AN ANT.

I BUILT THESE SPIDER-TRACERS YEARS AGO. I DON'T USE 'EM SO MUCH, BUT I LEFT ONE IN MY WALLET. MAYBE THEY CAN LOCK ONTO THAT?

WHAT KIND OF SIGNAL DOES IT SEND OUT?

I "FEEL" IT WITH MY SPIDER-SENSE WITHIN A 100-YARD PROXIMITY.

I WAS A KID. I'M SURE IT COULD BE BETTER DESIGNED--

YOU BUILT THIS?

YOU BUILT AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE THAT INTERFACES WITH YOUR ARACHNID POWERS? DID YOU KNOW HOW MANY YEARS IT TOOK ME TO BUILD THAT CAPACITY INTO MY HELMET?

I DON'T KNOW WHICH IS WORSE-- THAT SOME KID IS THAT MUCH SMARTER THAN ME, OR THAT HE'S WASTING HIS TALENT ON PUNCHING THUGS.

NOT TO SPOIL THE PITY PARTY, BUT...CAN YOU HELP ME?

THANKS.

YOU CAN USE THE DOOR, YOU KNOW.

OH, RIGHT. NO PROBLEM. I'LL RECALIBRATE MY HELMET AND HAVE EVERY ANT IN MANHATTAN LOOKING FOR YOUR SIGNAL. THEN I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL.

I KNOW YOU GOT TO RUN NOW, BUT REMEMBER: YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO USE *ALL* OF YOUR GIFTS, NOT JUST YOUR ABILITY TO KICK BUTT.

IF I MAKE IT TO 40, I'LL BUY THE HOUSE NEXT TO YOURS... DEAL?

YOU'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE. I EXPECTED YOU TO BE DONE BY NOW.

WE GOT *DETOURED.* WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO MURDOCK'S NOW.

WHO *IS* THAT? THE OWL? TELL HIM MY RATE DOUBLES IF I GOTTA GO TO OUTER BOROUGHS.

DON'T "SHUSH" ME! YOU'RE NOT MY MOTHER!

CRACK

AGHK! WHAT THE--?

A *SNIPER!*

SHE'S GOOD...

WHAT IS *WRONG* WIT' YOU?

SH-SHOT.... *HURTS!*

DON'T BLACK OUT ON ME, YOU IDIOT!

IT WAS PROBABLY A DUM-DUM BULLET. YOU'RE PROBABLY FULL OF METAL FRAGMENTS. JUST REACH OUT...AND *TURN INTO THEM.*

DO YOU *HEAR ME, CREEL? TURN INTO* THE *BULLET!*

GOOD CALL, YA HARPY!

I WAS HOPING TO AVOID HEAVY ORDNANCE....

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!* THERE ARE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS BELOW!

YA GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.

MUST GET THIS TO--

WHUMP

OH MY.

OH NO, IT'S THAT GUY!

YEAH. *AND* THE PUNISHER. WE'RE OUT OF HERE!

PFT PFT

OUTTA RANGE.

WELL...

AT LEAST NOW I FINALLY KNOW WHAT A *CAPE'S* GOOD FOR.

LATER...

DAILY BUGLE

ANYONE SEEN ETHAN EDWARDS AROUND?

PARKER? PETER PARKER?

YES...?

YOU DON'T EVEN *REMEMBER* ME, HUH?

ACTUALLY, I DO. WE MET THE OTHER DAY, BUT I DIDN'T CATCH YOUR--

WOW, I GUESS I REALLY *DID* REINVENT MYSELF, HUH?

THROW ME A BONE HERE, SOME KIND OF CLUE...

SCIENCE CLASS, SOPHOMORE YEAR--

LAURIE LYNTON?!!! ARE YOU KIDDING ME? IS THAT YOU?

I SAT NEXT TO YOU IN MRS. SCHWARTZ'S CLASS...

"...NOT THAT *YOU* WOULD REMEMBER."

"OF COURSE I REMEMBER YOU. YOU ALMOST BEAT ME IN THE SCIENCE FAIR."

"I *WISH*. REMEMBER WHEN FLASH THOMPSON SAW THE TWO US STANDING SIDE BY SIDE?"

SCIENCE FAIR

"THAT'S THE ONLY TIME TWO NERDS TOGETHER MADE A 10!"

SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

FLASH

"TELL ME ABOUT IT. OH MAN, THAT DAY HURT. I WAS A LOSER IN THE REAL WORLD *AND* THE NERD OLYMPICS. I MUST HAVE WOLFED DOWN A HALF DOZEN CANDY BARS BEFORE BEDTIME."

OH LAURIE, I'M SORRY. I WAS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH MY AUNT AND UNCLE I DIDN'T KNOW--

THAT'S SWEET OF YOU, BUT I'VE ALREADY DONE MY YEARS OF THERAPY ABOUT IT.

"AS SOON AS I GRADUATED, I CAUGHT THE FIRST THING SMOKING OUT OF TOWN AS FAR AWAY AS I COULD. ENDED UP IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, GETTING A GRADUATE DEGREE IN ENGINEERING.

"EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOT AS BODY-OBSESSED UP THERE AS THEY ARE IN L.A.,THE CHANGE OF SCENERY MADE ME WANT TO GET IN SHAPE, CHANGE MY DIET, FIGURE OUT WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO DO."

"WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE?"

JOURNALISM! I STARTED DOING A SCIENCE COLUMN, THEN I GOT AN OFFER FROM ROBBIE TO COME HERE AND DO A SPECIAL COLUMN IN THE PULSE ABOUT THE SCIENCE ON SUPER HEROES.

I SHOULD BE WRITING THIS SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT WITH YOU.

I'LL BE DOING A SIDEBAR TO YOUR PIECE. BUT ETHAN'S THE RISING STAR HERE.

SPEAKING OF WHOM, HAVE YOU SEEN--

PETER!

WE SHOULD TALK.

NO KIDDING.

EXCUSE US, LAURIE.

DID YOU EVER FIND YOUR WALLET?

NO, BUT I'M WORKING ON IT.

I'D LIKE TO HELP.

ETHAN, I KNOW YOU WOULD, BUT YOU'RE TOO GREEN AT THIS.

I KNOW, THAT'S WHY...I'D LIKE YOU TO TRAIN ME. BE YOUR APPRENTICE.

YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO OLD TO BE MY BOY SIDEKICK. YOU NEED TO WORK WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN TRAIN YOU HOW TO USE YOUR POWERS...YOU MAY NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY ALL ARE.

SEE? THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! THE RIGHT QUESTIONS!

OKAY MAN, WHO *ARE* YOU? WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

I TOLD YOU, IOWA.

IS EVERYBODY AS STRONG AS YOU DOWN ON THE FARM?

NO...

"...I WAS PRETTY UNIQUE."

"YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS DON'T HAVE ANY POWERS?"

"MY SISTER IS...KIND OF SLOW. DAD SAID IT WAS BECAUSE MOM HAD RELATIONS BEFORE SHE WAS MARRIED, SO GOD PUNISHED HER BY MAKING HER BARREN.

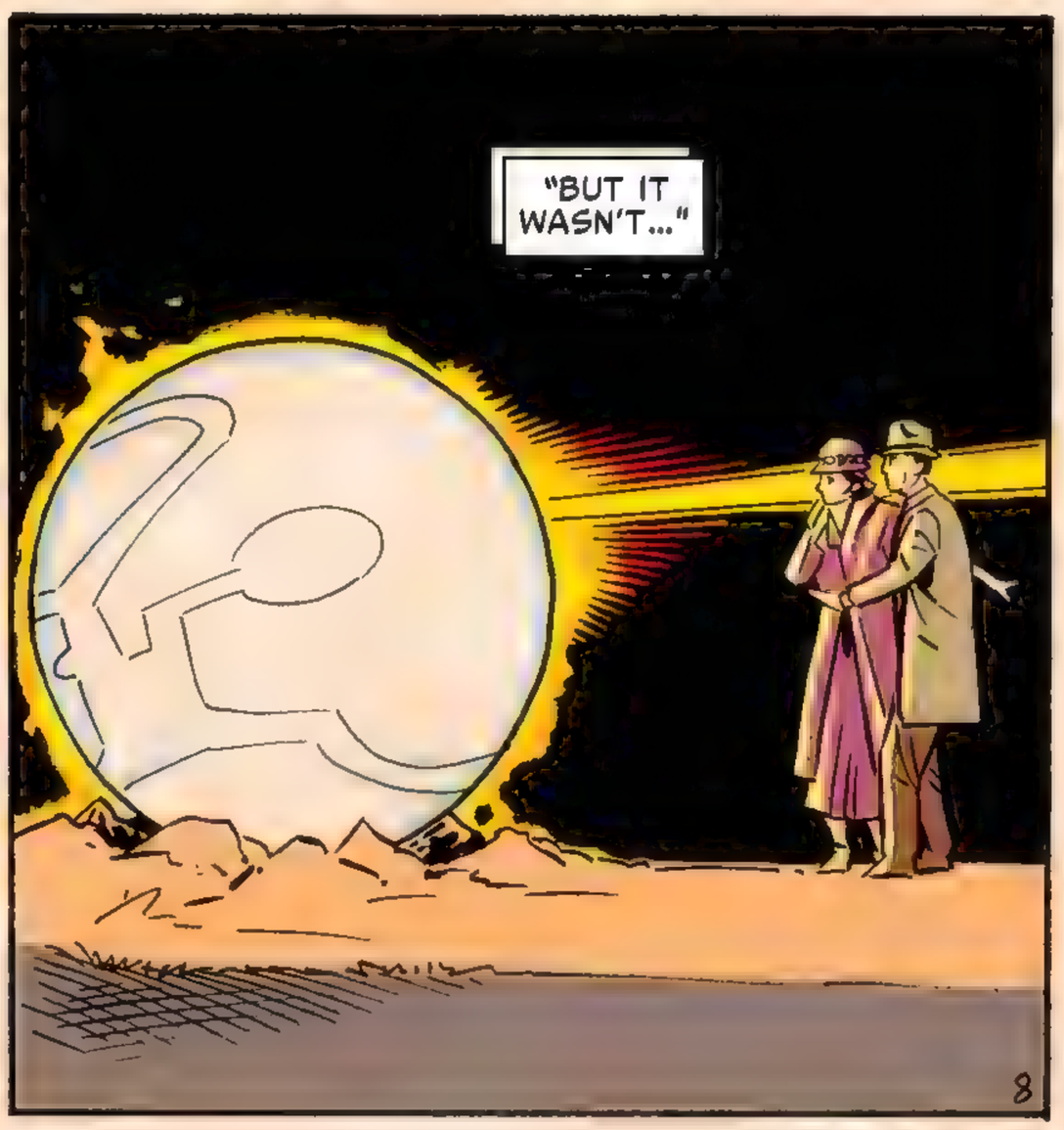
"BUT MOM SAID IT WAS DAD'S FAULT. SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE DIDN'T GO BLIND AS A YOUNG MAN.

2

"THEN A *MIRACLE* HAPPENED."

3

"AT FIRST THEY THOUGHT IT WAS THE FINAL DAYS.


"BUT IT WASN'T..."

"IT WAS A GIFT FROM GOD.

"THEY WERE CAUGHT IN THE RAPTURE.

"AND AFTER THEY WERE JUDGED TO BE WORTHY...

"...A *CHILD* WAS DELIVERED TO THEM."

"VERY BIBLICAL STORY, ETHAN. IS THAT HOW IT REALLY HAPPENED?"

14

"THEY WOULDN'T LIE, PETER. IT'S A SIN. BESIDES, WHY WOULD THEY?

15

"THEY WANTED NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR ME. A STRONG MORAL BACKGROUND TO MAKE SURE I ALWAYS DID THE RIGHT THING WITH MY SPECIAL GIFTS.

16

"THEY TAUGHT ME THE VALUE OF HARD WORK."

17

"THEY TAUGHT ME HUMILITY. NOT TO SHOW OFF MY POWERS BECAUSE VANITY IS A SIN. PLUS THEY WERE TIRED OF ME BREAKING STUFF BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW MY OWN STRENGTH."

"WHAT ABOUT DOCTORS, CHECK-UPS?"

"IT'S NOT LIKE I EVER GOT SICK. MY DAD DIDN'T THINK IT WAS ANYBODY'S BUSINESS ANYWAY. HE TAUGHT ME TO RESPECT AUTHORITY, BUT THAT A MAN'S HOME IS HIS CASTLE.

US GOV

US GOV

US GOV

I DON'T CARE *WHAT* YOU'RE LOOKING FOR! OFF MY PROPERTY OR I'LL *SHOOT* YA!

"FINALLY, I TOLD THEM I WANTED TO LEAVE THE FARM. I DIDN'T MIND MY CHORES, BUT I JUST FELT LIKE I HAD A HIGHER CALLING. THAT I HAD TO SEE MORE THAN THE COUNTRY FAIR AND THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING ON A FIELD TRIP.

"WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO LEAVE THE FARM AND GO TO THE CITY, MY DAD GAVE ME A PIECE OF ADVICE I WOULD NEVER FORGET."

WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME, GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

I WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING, BUT I KNOW I NEED *TRAINING*. WILL YOU HELP ME? WILL YOU BE MY GUIDE, MY MENTOR?

SHEESH... YOU'RE NOT LEAVING ME WITH A LOT OF *CHOICE*, ARE YOU?

IS THAT A "YES"? *AL-RIGHT!*

OKAY, LESSON ONE: BRING IT DOWN, WOULD YA?

AT LEAST *ATTEMPT* TO BE COOL...

TO BE CONTINUED

Man, Reginald Hudlin on Spider-Man! Brother, I wish you the best. I have MK SPIDER-MAN # 1, but I couldn't get the rest. Now that you're on board, MK SPIDER-MAN is back on my list of monthly books, and with Billy Tan on the art, that makes it that much sweeter!

I hope you stay on for a while, just keep the stories intelligent and fun.

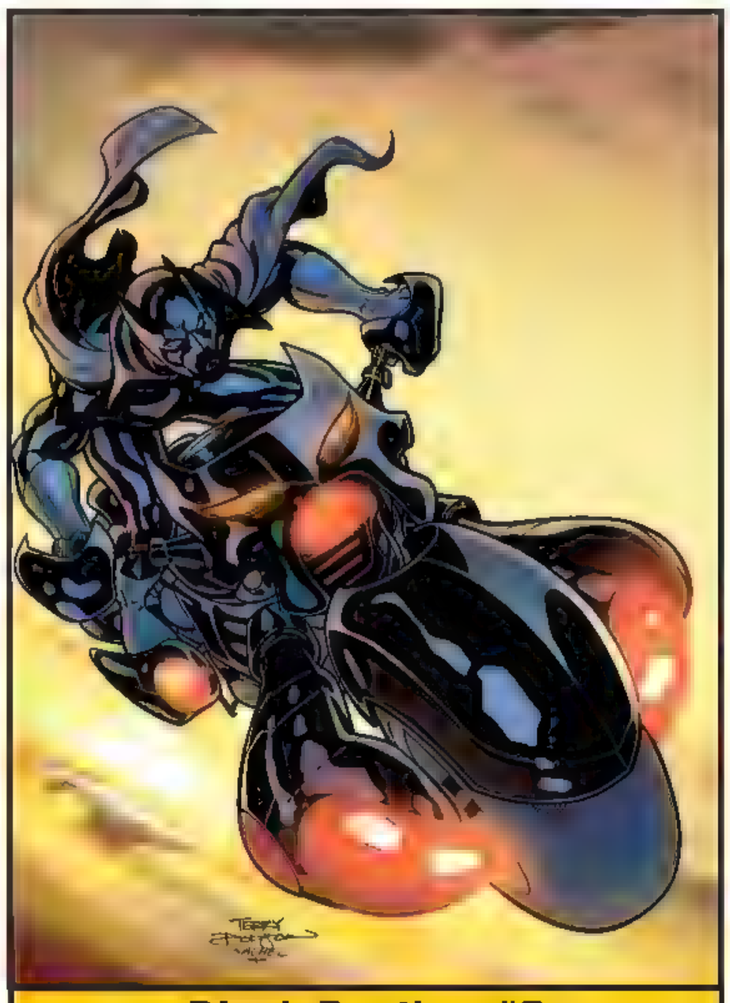
Oh, what's up with your brother Warren? What's he been up to?

Well, take it easy and make mine Marvel.

Mitch Sneed
Via Internet

If you're excited now, Mitch, just wait and see what we've got coming for you! You're going to need oven mitts to handle a book as hot as what Reggie and Billy have cooked up!

For more information on the brothers Hudlin you can check out www.hudlinentertainment.com, and all y'all can give us a shout out with your MK opinions here each and every month. For starters, this letter col needs a name!



Black Panther #5

Have ya heard? BLACK PANTHER is, like, the hottest thing since bread was sliced, and it's written by MKSM's very own Reggie Hudlin. Check out issue #5 on sale June 22nd!

CORY SEDLMEIER
ASST. EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
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NEXT ISSUE:

East (Coast) meets Midwest! Guest-starring the Fantastic Four!

MARVEL MAX 16

REGINALD HUDLIN • BILLY TAN • MARK BUCKINGHAM

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PREVIOUSLY IN MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN

"WILD BLUE YONDER"

PART IV OF VI

Peter Parker's life has been turned upside down. His house has been leveled by a super-villain so he's moved his family into a new pad—Avengers Tower...his summer-school teaching job fell through so he's finagled a summer job at the *Daily Bugle*...the Owl has placed a bounty on his head that the Absorbing Man and his mysterious female consultant are looking to collect.

They're not the only ones gunning for blood, though. The Punisher has pulled a hit on the Absorbing Man, forcing him to shape-shift into a metal form before being killed.

If that wasn't trouble enough, Peter's wallet has been stolen. Former Avenger, Hank "Ant-Man" Pym has his six-legged buddies out scouring the city trying to track him down. Meanwhile, the *Bugle's* new star reporter, Ethan Edwards, has angled in on Peter's turf as J. Jonah Jameson's new golden boy. Ethan's revealed himself to be an aspiring super hero, latching onto Peter for training. And there's something about this corn-fed Iowa boy that doesn't sit quite right with Peter.

WRITER	PENCILERS	INKERS	COLORISTS	LETTERER
REGINALD HUDLIN	BILLY TAN & MARK BUCKINGHAM	JON SIBAL & MARK BUCKINGHAM	AVALON'S IAN HANNIN & D'ISRAELI	VC's CORY PETIT

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ANYONE FOLLOWING US?

LADY, I'M A SEVEN-FOOT-TALL GUY MADE OUT OF STEEL, RIDING SHOTGUN IN A CAR WITH HALF THE ROOF OFF. IF THEY WANT TO FIND US, THEY WILL.

IT'S BAD ENOUGH WE HAVEN'T FINISHED ALL THE TARGETS ON THE OWL'S HIT LIST. I DON'T WANT TO BRING TROUBLE BACK TO HIS HEADQUARTERS--

OH BOY...

BRAND NEW DAY

...LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE'S ALREADY HERE.

WILD BLUE YONDER PART FOUR

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PENCILS

JOHN SIBAL
INKS
1-17

AVALON'S
IAN HANNIN
COLORS

MARK BUCKINGHAM
PENCILS & INKS
18-21

D'ISRAELI
COLORS

VC'S CORY PETIT
LETTERS

STEVE McNIVEN
COVER

CORY SEDLMEIER ASST. EDITOR | AXEL ALONSO EDITOR | JOE QUESADA CHIEF | DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

WHUMP

OOH! THAT'S GOTTA HURT!

AND SO WILL THIS.

THANKS FOR MAKING IT EASY TO KNOCK YOUR BLOCKS OFF ALL AT ONCE, LOSERS!

RUN ALL YOU WANT--YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE ABSORBING MAN!

TEN MINUTES LATER

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AN EASY HIT: TAKE OUT A DOZEN GUYS IN 48 HOURS.

YOU'RE A MASTER ASSASSIN TRAINED BY THE HAND... *AND* I PAIR YOU UP WITH A BONA FIDE HEAVYWEIGHT SUPER-FREAK. HOW'D IT ALL GO WRONG?

WE CAN *STILL* FINISH THIS.

NO, YOU *CAN'T*. YOU TOOK TOO LONG. THAT'S WHY THAT CREW OF GOOMBAS WAS OUTSIDE MY DOOR, TRYING TO TAKE ME OUT BEFORE YOU GOT TO THEM. NOW THEY'LL REALLY BE IN HIDING.

WHAT ABOUT THE *CAPES?* WE CAN STILL HIT THEM, RIGHT?

YOU'RE NOT HEARING ME. I HAVE TOO MUCH HEAT ON ME NOW. EVEN THE *PUNISHER* IS ON TO YOU GUYS. BESIDES, CAPES ARE ALWAYS HARD TO KILL. AND YOU GUYS AREN'T DOING SO WELL WITH REGULAR MOB GUYS...

THE "PARTNER" YOU STUCK ME WITH IS A...NON-PROFESSIONAL, TO SAY THE LEAST. HE'S A JUNKIE WHO'S TOO STRUNG OUT TO DO HIS JOB. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO *DO* WITH A LOSER LIKE THAT?

WHAT INDEED...?

SO WHAT'D HE SAY?

CAN ONE OF HIS GUYS GET THE BULLET FRAGMENTS OUT OF ME? I DON'T WANNA TURN HUMAN TIL--

DON'T WORRY. I HAVE THE PERFECT SOLUTION.

THAT STUFF THEY WERE FEEDING YOU BACK IN PRISON-- WE SCORED SOME.

OH YEAH, BABY!

WHUNK

ABSORB IT, AND THE SLUGS WILL DROP RIGHT OUT OF YOU.

SURE, BUT, HEY--I WANT CASH, TOO.

FOR YOUR FINAL PAYMENT, SURE. BUT FOR NOW, ENJOY.

I THINK I WILL...

SNNNIIIFFFFFF!

HMMM... NAP TIME...

ROOM SEALED?

POWER ON!

WAIT... WHAT ARE YOU...

AAAAHHHHHHHHH!

WHOOOOSH

OKAY, IT'S BEEN FIVE MINUTES. FANS OFF. START SCRAPING.

GEEZ. THERE'S ENOUGH POWDER HERE FOR EVERY JUNKIE IN NEW YORK.

THIS GANG WAR IS GOING TO BE VERY COSTLY. BUT CREEL JUST TRANSFORMED FROM AN EXPENSE TO A PROFIT CENTER. HE'LL BE THE HOTTEST PRODUCT ON THE STREET SINCE MGH.

ARE YOU GOING TO CUT IT?

OH, IT WILL BE STEPPED ON SEVERAL TIMES. LIMITED SUPPLY, YOU KNOW.

MY DEALERS HAVE CUSTOMERS LINED UP READY TO BUY. I WANT YOU TO ACCOMPANY THE DELIVERY MEN TO MAKE SURE THE DROP-OFFS DON'T GET HIJACKED.

MEANWHILE...

MARY JANE WATSON!? YOU MARRIED MARY JANE WATSON.

I KNOW, I FEEL LIKE THE LUCKIEST--

YOU'RE SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY! SHE WAS PART OF THE "IN CROWD" THAT USED TO MAKE FUN OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME!

SHE NEVER MADE FUN OF--

OH YES SHE *DID*, PETER. SHE MAY NOT ADMIT IT NOW, BUT SHE DID.

I'M SORRY, PETER. THAT WAS RUDE. ARE YOU HAPPY?

SHE'S THE BEST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO ME.

THEN THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, PETER, AND IT'S NOT TRUE.

SO YOU'RE *NOT* A STALKER WHO MOVED BACK TO NEW YORK TO HUNT ME DOWN?

WELL, I *DID* KINDA WANT TO RUN INTO YOU.

HOW ABOUT THE PART WHERE MY WIFE IS NOW IN DANGER?

OH GOD NO! I MEAN, YOU'D HAVE TO BE CRAZY. I'M A TOUCH NEUROTIC, BUT DEFINITELY NOT CRAZY.

GOOD. 'CAUSE YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, AND SMART AND FUNNY AND--

STOP THERE AND YOU'LL BE FINE.

RIGHT. OKAY. SEE YOU LATER.

What a weird guilt trip. Maybe a little web-slinging will shake off that--

HEEEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I KNEW I'D FIND YOU HERE.

SORRY, PETER, BUT I FIGURED YOU'D WANT TO SWING INTO ACTION SOME TIME TODAY, AND I WANTED TO BE THERE. SINCE YOU CHANGED INTO COSTUME HERE LAST TIME...

I ONCE LIFTED A WHOLE GRAIN ELEVATOR.

LOOK, WE WON'T BE "SWINGING" INTO ACTION TOGETHER UNTIL YOU GET SOME PROPER TRAINING, ETHAN. DO YOU EVEN KNOW THE SCOPE OF YOUR POWERS?

-SIGH-

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO GET YOU TESTED PROPERLY.

AND YOU'RE SURE YOU DON'T WANT A LIFT?

YES. NO MORE PIGGYBACK RIDES!

TWO MINUTES LATER

STRETCH, THERE'S SOMEBODY OUT THE WINDOW.

HEY, YOU EVER THINK ABOUT USING THE FRONT DOOR?

I'M SURE YOU LET MASKED GUYS UP TO THE TOP FLOOR *ALL THE TIME.*

REED, BEN, SUE, JOHNNY, THIS IS--

VIRTUE!

--UH, VIRTUE.

WE PROBABLY NEED TO WORK ON THAT, TOO.

ANYWAY, HE'S GOT SUPER-POWERS, BUT HE DOESN'T REALLY KNOW HOW--

IT'S A GIFT FROM GOD!

I CATCH YOUR MEANING, SPIDER-MAN. WE'LL RUN SOME TESTS.

SOON...

GEE WHIZ, THIS IS HEAVY!

HE APPEARS TO BE IN BEN'S WEIGHT CLASS IN TERMS OF STRENGTH.

WATCH YOUR TONGUE THERE!

SHE'S RIGHT THERE. HOLDING UP TWO FINGERS. BEHIND HER BACK.

AMAZING! HE SEEMS TO SEE IN EVERY LIGHT SPECTRUM!

IT'S KIND OF CREEPY. I'VE NEVER FELT SO NAKED WHILE INVISIBLE. EVEN WHEN I WAS NAKED!

HE'S MATCHING THE TORCH IN SPEED, MANEUVERABILITY AND DISTANCE.

AND CHARM.

THE MOST AMAZING THING HE DID WAS HEAL MY INJURIES. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT, REED?

HE DID *WHAT?*

IF THIS GUY IS HEALING PEOPLE, THEN I'M FIRST IN LINE!

HOLD ON, BEN. "VIRTUE" SEEMS NICE ENOUGH, BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHO HE REALLY IS OR THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF HIS "HEALING"...IF THAT'S WHAT IT IS...

THANKS FOR MAKING ME UNCOMFORTABLE!

AAAAAAAH

SINCE WE CAN'T GET BLOOD THROUGH YOUR INVULNERABLE SKIN, WE'LL RUN SOME TESTS ON A DNA SAMPLE.

YOU'LL SCREEN FOR MUTATIONS? COSMIC RAYS? GAMMA RADIATION? SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM? ANGEL FEATHERS? PIXIE DUST?

SPIDER-MAN?

YES?

CALM DOWN.

YEAH-YEAH.

WHAT THE--?

OBJECT HAS BEEN FOUND

HANK.....

HEY LOOKIT THAT. YOUR BUG PALS WANT YOU TO COME OUT AND PLAY.

OKAY, *NOW* IT'S GETTING WEIRD.

ONCE I GET THOSE TEST RESULTS, I'LL CONTACT YOU...NOT BY ANT-PHONE, BUT WE'LL DO OUR BEST.

GOOD LOOKING OUT, REED!

THANKS, MR. RICHARDS!

...RIGHT. SO WHEN *WILL* PETER BE IN THE OFFICE?

I'M TELLING YA, I SCRAPED HIM OFF THE WALL MYSELF.

SO IS THIS STUFF REALLY ALL THAT?

ZAPP!

YE-OW! THE HELL IS THAT?

HOW LONG YOU BEEN ABLE TO DO *THAT*?

I DON'T KNOW...BUT IT'S NEAT, HUH?

I HATE DRUG DEALERS!

ME TOO, LITTLE BUDDY. JUST LEAVE ENOUGH OF THEM TO TESTIFY AT THE TRIAL.

HOLD ON, THERE, LITTLE LADY!

I'LL TAKE THAT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

RELEASE ME, OR ELSE I'LL TELL THE WORLD THAT YOU'RE PE-- MMMPF

THWIP

C'MON, YOU THINK YOU'RE THE FIRST CROOK TO FIGURE OUT WHO I AM? DO YOU KNOW WHAT S.H.I.E.L.D. DOES TO PEOPLE LIKE YOU? A VAN WILL SHOW UP IN 15 MINUTES AND YOU'LL NEVER BE HEARD FROM AGAIN.

SORRY, DIDN'T CATCH THAT.

UH, "VIRTUE"...? YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE OFF NOW.

WHY?

YOU DON'T HAVE A MASK ON, AND THE PRESS JUST SHOWED UP.

GOOD POINT.

WHOOSH

MEET YOU ON THE ROOF LATERRRRRRRR!

SPIDER-MAN! WHO WAS THAT?

WHO WAS WHO?

THE GUY IN THE FRUITY OUTFIT. IS HE A SUPER HERO? OR A CROOK LIKE YOU?

OKAY, YOU JUST OFFENDED ME THREE DIFFERENT WAYS.

YOU GUYS REALLY GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD, DON'T YOU?

I MEAN--

SHOOT THAT! SPIDER-MAN LET THAT CROOK GET AWAY!

Nuts! And without the spider-tracer, I can't track her anymore!

Not good.

Even worse.

SALE

LATER

OH MAN, THAT WAS GREAT!

NO, THAT *WASN'T!* YOUR FACE IS ON EVERY NEWS STATION IN THE CITY.

OH, DON'T WORRY. THAT'S WHY I WEAR THESE GLASSES. YOU DIDN'T THINK I HAD BAD VISION, DID YOU?

ETHAN, THEY'VE GOT A CLOSE-UP OF YOUR FACE. YOU'RE BUILT LIKE A LINEBACKER. YOU'RE ABOUT TO WALK INTO A NEWSROOM. YOU DON'T THINK THEY'RE GONNA FIGURE IT OUT?

NO.

DING

I *TOLD* YOU NO ONE WILL RECOGNIZE ME.

I WANT AN *EXCLUSIVE!*

NO, ME!

NO, ME!

I TOLD YOU...

LAURIE LYNTON.

...

OH, HE'S RIGHT HERE.

PARKER? THIS IS REED RICHARDS.

HOW DID YOU FIND ME HERE?

IF I CAN TRACK SUBATOMIC PARTICLES THROUGH THE NEGATIVE ZONE... I CAN GET YOUR WORK NUMBER. IN FACT, MY PORTABLE PHONE HAS A SPECIAL PROGRAM THAT TRACKS--

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, SIR?

YOUR NEW FRIEND "VIRTUE"--WHERE IS HE NOW?

ETHAN? HE'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM...BEING HOUNDED BY THE PRESS AFTER BEING UNMASKED AS A WANNA-BE SUPER HERO. WHAT'S GOING ON?

I JUST FINISHED DOING THOSE TEST RESULTS ON YOUR FRIEND. VERY SURPRISING RESULTS. OBVIOUSLY A LOT OF GENETIC MANIPULATION IN HIS DNA. WHICH MADE ME CURIOUS ABOUT HIS "ARRIVAL." SO WE TOOK A LITTLE FIELD TRIP.

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

WE'RE IN IOWA. WE UNEARTHED THE SPACESHIP THAT BROUGHT ETHAN TO EARTH.

WE KNOW WHERE IT'S *FROM*.

"THAT'S GREAT, REED. SO WHE--"

"LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY, PETER. WE KNOW *WHERE* ETHAN'S FROM, AND *WHY* HE'S HERE.

"YEARS AGO, WHEN HIS HOME PLANET WAS THREATENED, THE CHIEF SCIENTIST KNEW ALL THEIR WEAPONS COULD NOT STOP THE ENEMY THAT WAS COMING TO DEVOUR THEM.

AFTER KIRBY

"SO HE HATCHED A PLAN.

"HE DECIDED TO SEND HIS INFANT SON ACROSS THE GALAXY.

"TO A PLANET PRIMITIVE ENOUGH FOR THEIR SON TO CONQUER ONCE HE REACHED MATURITY.

"UNTIL THEN, HIS SHAPE-SHIFTING ABILITIES WOULD ALLOW HIM TO ALTER HIS APPEARANCE TO LOOK LIKE THE DOMINANT SPECIES ON THE PLANET.

"TO INSURE HIS SON'S SUCCESS, THIS SCIENTIST GAVE HIM POWERS EVEN GREATER THAN THE LAST WARRIOR HIS RACE HAD SENT TO THIS BACKWARD WORLD.

"PETER, ETHAN EDWARDS IS A *SKRULL.* HIS FATHER CREATED THE SUPER-SKRULL...

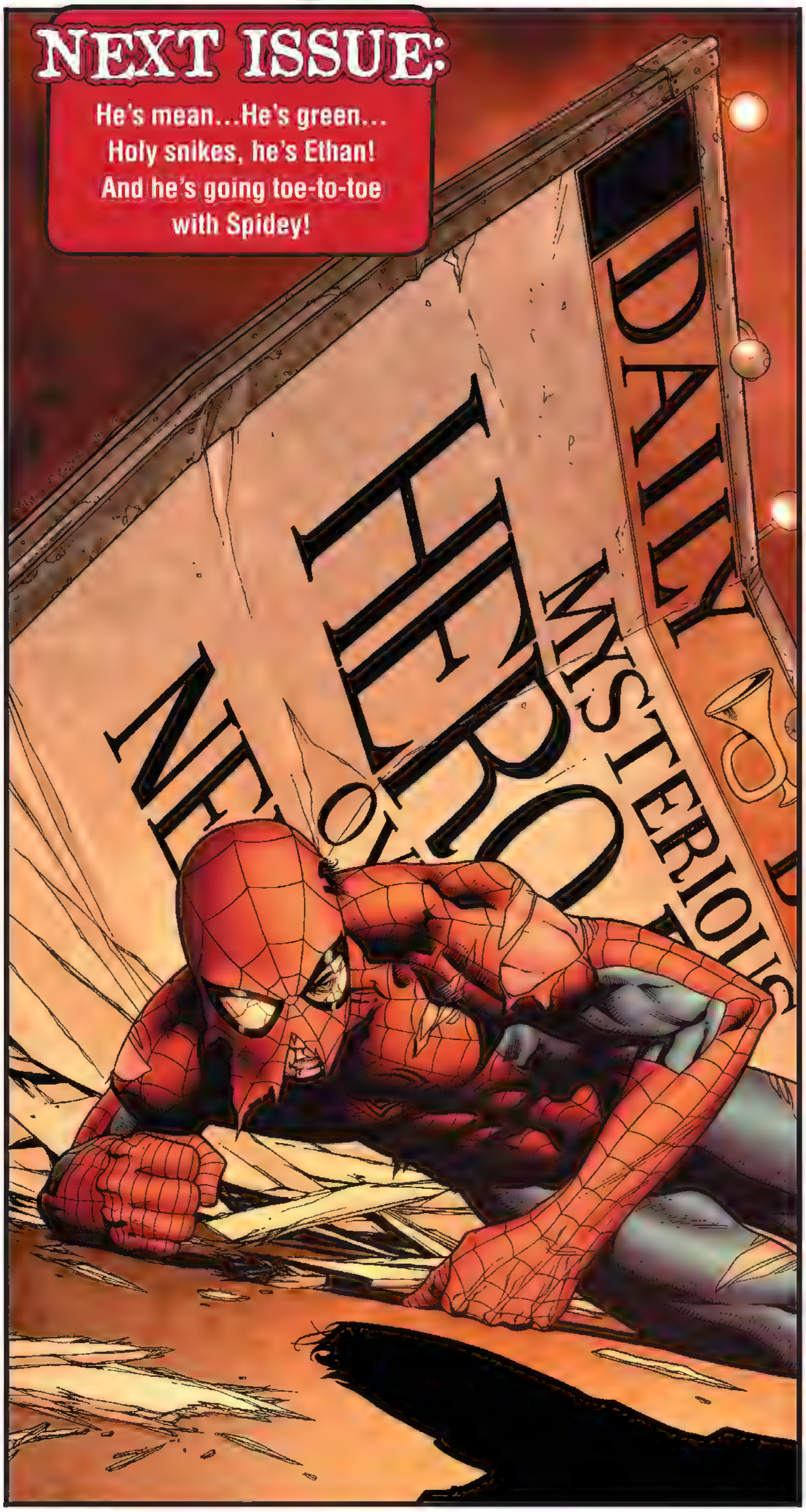
"...AND HIS SON IS HERE TO CONQUER THE WORLD!"

TO BE CONTINUED

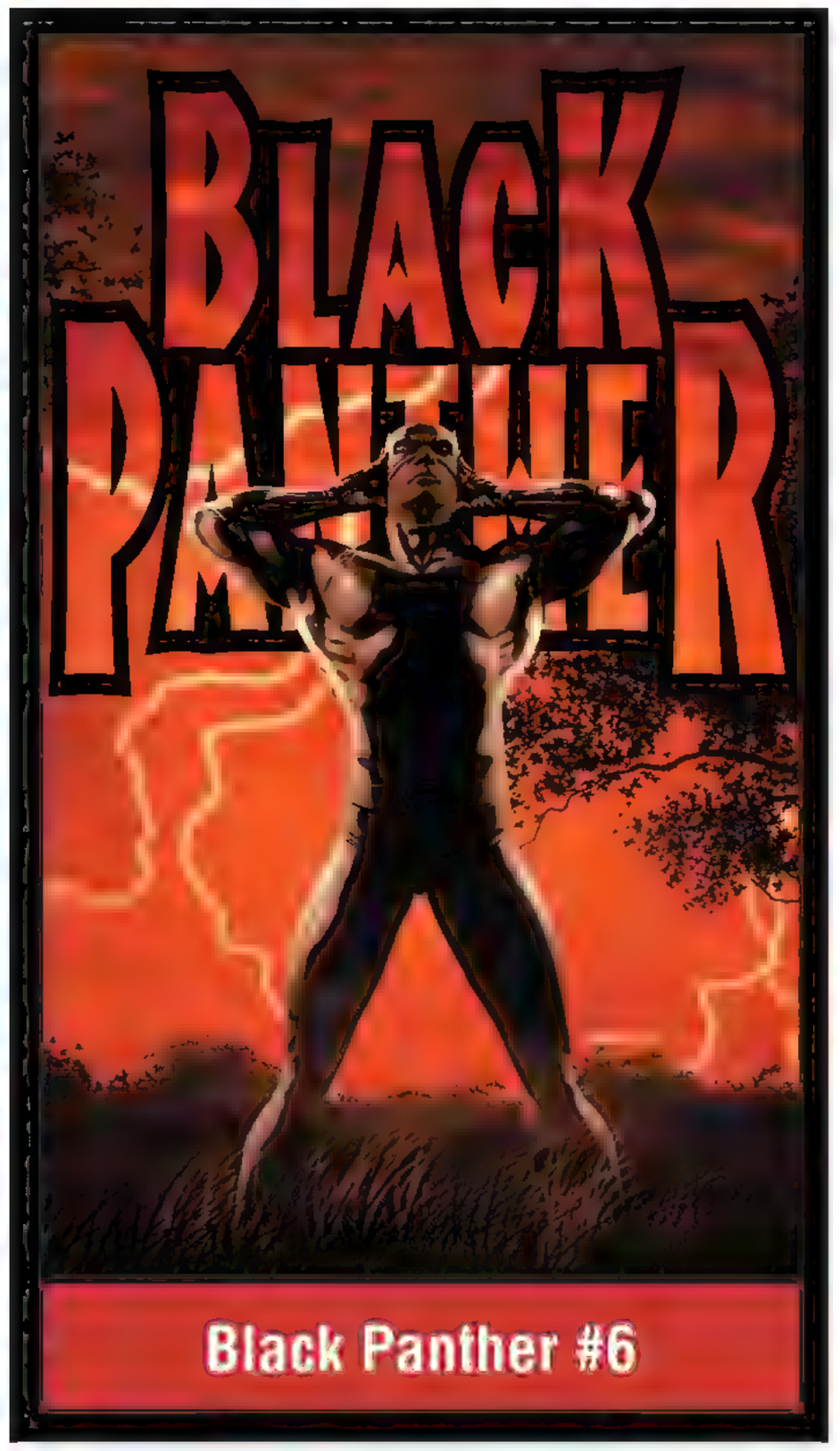
MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN

NEXT ISSUE:

He's mean...He's green...
Holy snikes, he's Ethan!
And he's going toe-to-toe
with Spidey!



Don't just while away the next 30 to see how Spidey got himself into that mess, check out this little diddy from our man Reggie Hudlin...



Black Panther #6

Here it is, the no-holds-barred conclusion of "Who Is the Black Panther?" Get out your crash helmet and safety goggles 'cause JRJR ain't holding back on this one! (Not even a little bit.) On sale July 27th!

As always, visit the House of Hudlin at www.hudlinentertainment.com for more MK SPIDEY and BLACK PANTHER talk!

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MARVEL MK 17

REGINALD HUDLIN • BILLY TAN • JON SIBAL

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THE NEW BOSS

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PREVIOUSLY IN MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN

"WILD BLUE YONDER"

PART V OF VI

Peter Parker's life has been turned upside down. His house has been leveled by a super-villain so he's moved his family into a new pad—Avengers Tower…his summer-school teaching job fell through so he's finagled a summer job at the Daily Bugle…the Owl has placed a bounty on his head that The Absorbing Man and his mysterious female consultant are looking to collect…and if that weren't enough, the Bugle's new star reporter has turned out to be, well, out of this world.

Ethan Edwards is his name, and if he acts like he's from another planet—that's 'cause he is. See, years ago, when Galactus decided to make the Skrull home planet a late-night snack, a top scientist sent his infant son hurtling across the galaxy in a high-tech space pod. That spacecraft eventually found safe haven on Planet Earth, where Ethan was discovered and raised to maturity by a kindly Midwestern couple—all the while unaware of his true identity, his true heritage.

Ethan has always known he was special – the endless array of super-powers kind of gave it away. But he's never known why. That's about to change. Question is, can Ethan handle the truth?

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I GOT SOME! THEY ALMOST SOLD OUT, BUT I GOT SOME!

SUMMA WHAT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK-- *ABSORBING MAN!*

WHA...YOU MEAN, LIKE THAT GUY WHO--?

NOT *"LIKE"* THAT GUY. THIS STUFF *IS* THAT GUY. HE TURNED INTO DOPE, AND NOW HE'S FOR *SALE.*

LEMME SEE WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT...

TEN MINUTES LATER...

WHOAH! I'M...LIKE... REALLY HALLU- HALLUCIN-

SEEING THINGS.

LIKE MY HAND...LOOKS LIKE *WOOD*, MAN.

YO, MAN... YOUR HAND *IS* WOOD.

YEAH...IT'S LIKE I...SANK *INTO* THE COUCH...FOR REAL.

OKAY... I GOTTA TAKE A--

WOAH!

THIS GUY MUSTA OD'D.

MOVE, LOSER. I GOTTA--

KRASH

WOAH!

PETER! YOU'VE GOT TO *HELP* ME!

PETER! DID YOU HEAR ME? YOUR FRIEND ETHAN--IS A *SKRULL!*

I HEAR YOU...*BOTH* OF YOU.

WILD BLUE YONDER PART FIVE

REGINALD HUDLIN WRITER | BILLY TAN PENCILS | JOHN SIBAL INKS | AVALON'S IAN HANNIN COLORS | VC'S CORY PETIT LETTERS | STEVE MCNIVEN COVER

CORY SEDLMEIER ASST. EDITOR | AXEL ALONSO EDITOR | JOE QUESADA CHIEF | DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

EDWARDS! PARKER! IN MY OFFICE--*NOW!*

EDWARDS, LISTEN TO ME CLOSE:

I PROMISE I WON'T YELL AT YOU FOR HOLDING OUT ON THE BIGGEST STORY OF THE YEAR--IF YOU TELL ME EVERYTHING *RIGHT NOW.*

B-B-BUT I DON'T *KNOW* EVERYTHING. AND THE MORE I TALK, THE WORSE THINGS GET.

SON, IF YOU DON'T TALK, THINGS ARE GOING TO GET A WHOLE *LOT* WORSE.

I-I-I...

NO!

CRASH!

I'M TAKING THAT OUT OF YOUR PAYCHECK!

PARKER?

I'M ON IT, SIR.

WHOA! NEW TAILOR?

THEY *KNOW* WHO I AM. WHAT ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

I THINK WE NEED TO HEAD BACK TO YOUR HOMETOWN. THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE THERE, AND THEY--

MY *HOMETOWN?* ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

MY DAD IS GOING TO FIND OUT I'VE BEEN USING MY POWERS.

WHAT--? HE DOESN'T LIKE SUPER HEROES?

HE THINKS THEY'RE FALSE IDOLS WHO SET THEMSELVES UP AS GODS TO BE WORSHIPPED.

YEESH, THEY SHOULD BE *ME* FOR A DAY...

THAT PICTURE OF ME IS GOING TO GET ON THE NATIONAL NEWS FEED. NOW THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE WALKING AROUND MY HOMETOWN. EVERYBODY IN HICKSVILLE IS GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT THAT!

YOU'RE FROM A PLACE CALLED "HICKSVILLE"?

MY DAD IS GOING TO BLOW HIS TOP!

LOOK, ETHAN, YOU'RE UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE, BUT Y--

WHOOOOSHH!

--OKAY. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET TO IOWA NOW?

WEEEEEEEE!

OKAY, NOW WHAT?

MY HAND! IT'S MADE OF GLASS!

OKAY, *THIS* KIND OF PROBLEM, I CAN HANDLE.

SCREECH

MY FINGER! YOU BROKE IT!

PUT IT IN A SPLINT, IT'LL HEAL.

MY FINGER IS *GLASS*, MORON! I'M SUING YOU!

WHEN YOU COME DOWN OFF YOUR ILLEGAL DRUG INDUCED HIGH, YOU MIGHT WANT TO RETHINK THAT.

MY FEET!

I CAN'T MOVE! MY FEET ARE TOO HEAVY!

THIS IS A JOB...

...FOR SOMEBODY ELSE.

MEANWHILE IN HICKSVILLE...

NOW KEEP STEPPING! I DON'T WANT TO HURT YA, BUT I WILL!

SIR...WE FOUND THE *SPACESHIP* YOUR SON CAME IN.

BLA-DOW!

PARDON ME, SIR...BUT YOU JUST SHOT AT MY HUSBAND.

SWEET MERCY! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

JUST BE GLAD I DIDN'T HAVE BEN OR JOHNNY DISARM YOU.

FINE. ARREST ME. WHATEVER. YOU'LL NEVER BREAK MY SPIRIT!

WE DON'T EVEN WANT TO ARREST YOU. WE'RE NOT POLICEMEN-- WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOUR SON.

SIR, MIND TELLING ME HOW YOU FOUND YOUR SON?

WE WERE DRIVING HOME, THERE WAS A FLASH OF LIGHT FROM THE HEAVENS, AND THERE HE WAS.

NOW, WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH *U.F.O.S?*

WELL, IF YOU WANT TO *HELP* HIM, THEN DON'T TRY TO WRITE OFF HIS GOD-GIVEN ABILITIES AS SOME-THING FROM *OUTER SPACE!*

SIR, CAN I SHOW YOU SOME-THING TO SEE IF YOU REMEMBER SEEING IT BEFORE?

THREE MINUTES LATER...

SWEET MERCY! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE IN MY LIFE!

SO YOU'VE NEVER *SEEN* THIS SPACESHIP BEFORE?

NOT *THAT*. I'M TALKING ABOUT THE ORANGE ROCK MONSTER THAT CAME IN IT!

SHEESH, YOU'D THINK AT THIS POINT I'D HAVE SCARED THE WHOLE COUNTRY AT LEAST ONCE.

HE MUST NOT HAVE A SATELLITE DISH.

I'M NO PSYCHIC, BUT I CAN TELL HE'S BEING COMPLETELY SINCERE.

OF *COURSE* I AM! A MAN'S WORD IS HIS BOND!

I AGREE. I HAVEN'T FINISHED ANALYZING IT, BUT THE SHIP MUST HAVE SOME KIND OF DEVICE THAT GIVES POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTIONS--

BOOM

UH...UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR SON IS COMING TO PAY A VISIT.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT BOY? I TOLD HIM NEVER USE THOSE *POWERS* IN PUBLIC.

HOW YOU GONNA KEEP 'EM DOWN ON THE FARM AFTER THEY'VE SEEN PAREE?

WHOOOSHH!

STAY AWAY FROM MY DAD!

ARE YOU SURE THAT WAS MY SON? WENT BY KINDA FAST...

I WOULD GUESS MACH THREE, SURPASSING OUR PREVIOUS ESTIMATES. JOHNNY--

I'M ALREADY ON THEIR TRAIL.

DO YOU HEAR ME?!

NOT REALLY. I THINK YOU STARTED YOUR SENTENCE TWO COUNTIES AGO.

I SAID, STAY AWAY FROM MY FAMILY! WHO TOLD YOU TO COME HERE?

YOUR DNA, BUDDY BOY.

OKAY, THIS IS GETTING OLD. EITHER YOU STOP, OR...

OKAY, YOU *ASKED* FOR IT!

CLAP

WHUMP

WHUMP

WHUMP

AT LEAST YOU LANDED WITH YOUR GOOD SIDE SHOWING.

EINSTEIN WAS A MAN OF DEEP FAITH, BUT ALSO A MAN OF SCIENCE. THE TWO ARE NOT AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER--

THE BOYS ARE BACK!

WHAT THE--?

KLIK-KLIK

WHIRRRRRRRRRR

IT'S ALIVE!

WHAT'S IT DOING?

I WOULD GUESS DOWNLOADING. IT PROBABLY SENSED HIS DNA NEARBY AND STARTED RUNNING AN OLD PROGRAM.

CAN YA TURN IT OFF BEFORE HE GETS THE ORDER TO "CRUSH, KILL AND DESTROY?"

LET'S SEE...

ZZZAP

REED!

IN OTHER WORDS...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

STAND BACK EVERY-BODY, I'M ABOUT TO MELT THIS THING INTO--

DON'T BOTHER... DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND... RIGORS OF SPACE... ATMOSPHERIC RE-ENTRY HEAT...

SPLUNCH

IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

MEANWHILE IN NEW YORK...

IT'S PANDEMONIUM IN THE STREETS. TURNS OUT IF YOU SNIFF ABSORBING MAN...YOU GET HIS POWERS FOR AN HOUR OR SO.

WHO *KNEW?*

STUFF HAPPENS... ANYWAY, LOTS OF *OD'S*, FATALITIES AND MAIMING RESULTING FROM THE TRANSFORMATIONS. EVERY EMERGENCY ROOM IN THE CITY IS FULL.

HOW IS THE PRODUCT MOVING?

EVERY TIME SOME JUNKIE RUNS DOWN THE STREET BECAUSE HIS HEAD'S TURNED INTO COTTON, WE GOT FIVE MORE CUSTOMERS.

FASTEST SELLOUT IN THE HISTORY OF ILLEGAL PHARMACEUTICALS.

YES!

EVEN WITH DEALERS *DOUBLING* THEIR PRICE, THEY RAN OUT BY NOON THE NEXT DAY.

LOVIN' IT!

YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER MORE "LIMITED RUN" DESIGNER DRUGS LIKE THIS. ANY MORE ABSORBING TYPES AROUND...?

WITH THE MONEY AND CLOUT I'LL GET FROM PULLING THIS OFF, I AM THE UNDISPUTED *KING* OF THE UNDERWORLD. NO ONE CAN STOP ME NOW!

ELSEWHERE...

GIMME ALL YOUR MONEY OR I'LL RIP YOU APART!

NY NEWS

TAP TAP TAP

'SCUSE ME. IF YOU OPEN THAT WINDOW, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT CREEP FOR YOU.

THESE WINDOWS ARE-- UGH! --HARD TO OPEN!

STAY IN YOUR SEAT, LADY!

KRASH

RESPECT YOUR ELDERS, STEEL PAW!

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY RANK AMATEUR SUPER-VILLAINS I'VE BEAT THE STUFFING OUT OF TODAY? YOU GUYS ARE STUPIDER THAN THE REAL ABSORBING MAN!

WHUD

"STUPIDER"-- IS THAT A WORD?

OOOOO! NICE PUNCH, SPIDER-MAN!

RIP HIS LUNGS OUT, SPIDEY!

SMAK

I'W WIP YOU APARD WIP MY METAW HANDS...

COULD YOU *REPEAT* THAT? YOUR SWELLING JAW MAKES YOU HARD TO UNDERSTAND...

WHAT THE--?

OH *NOOOO*...

BEEN ABOUT AN HOUR? TIME'S *UP*, CHUMP.

YOU HAVE ONE CHANCE. *WHO* WAS YOUR SUPPLIER?

DON'T HIT ME, DON'T HIT ME, DON'T HIT ME.

NO, MAN-- I CAN'T. HE-HE'LL ÷SNIFF÷ KILL ME...

OKAY, I *WARNED* YOU...

KICK 'EM IN THE TEETH, SPIDEY!

IT WAS THIS DUDE... LESTER... ÷SNIFF÷

YEAH? AND *WHO'S* HE WORK FOR?

NO! NO! ÷SNIFF÷ I'LL TALK!

AW, I MIGHT AS WELL DIE NOW, MAN...

SUIT YOURSELF...

THE OWL! THE OWL IS THE MAN!

HE DID IT.

DISCOUNT BOOKS

MEANWHILE BACK IN HICKSVILLE...

UH...MAYBE I HIT HIM A BIT *TOO* HARD...?

ARRRRGH!!! WHAT DID YOU DO? I SMELL BLOOD!!!

I WAS AFRAID OF THIS!

YOU DON'T KNOW THE *MEANING* OF FEAR, RICHARDS!

I'LL *START* WITH THIS FOOL. HE WANTS TO BE CURED. SO BE IT.

HE'LL DIE AN ORDINARY MAN.

NO!

WHUNK

NICE WORK, SUE. JOHNNY, GET BEN OUT OF THERE *NOW!*

CLEAR REED! I NEED A CLEAN SHOT!

WHOOOSH!

SON... WHAT ARE YOU... *DOING?*

D-DAD?

WH-O?

W-WHO AM I?

AAARGH!

MEANWHILE IN NEW YORK...

BLAMM! BLAMM! BLAMM!

BAD IDEA. I'M IN A NASTY MOOD.

WANNA END UP LIKE YOUR BUDDY? THEN TRY ME.

I GOT NO JOKES FOR DRUG DEALERS. BUT PLENTY OF AGGRESSION.

BLAMM! BLAMM!

CAN HE GET *IN* HERE?

IT'S REINFORCED STEEL. THERE'S NO WAY HE--

WHUNK

RIGHT. WELL, YOU DON'T GET TO THE TOP...

...UNLESS YOU'RE A *CLAWS*-ON KILLER!

ALRIGHT THAT'S IT!

I'M GOING TO KILL EVERYBODY!

TO BE CONTINUED

MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN

NEXT ISSUE:

Brouhaha time. Put on your crash helmet for the no-holds-barred conclusion!

Don't just while away the next 30 to see how Spidey got himself into that mess, check out this little diddy from our man Reggie Hudlin…

Black Panther #7

Don't forget to check out our Mr. Hudlin's happenin' House of M tie-in, "Soul Power in the House of M" with the intense pencils of the one and only Trevor Hairsine. It's on-sale now!

As always, visit the House of Hudlin at www.hudlinentertainment.com for more MK SPIDEY and BLACK PANTHER talk!

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MARVEL

MARVEL KNIGHTS

18

SPIDER-MAN®

HUDLIN
TAN
SIBAL

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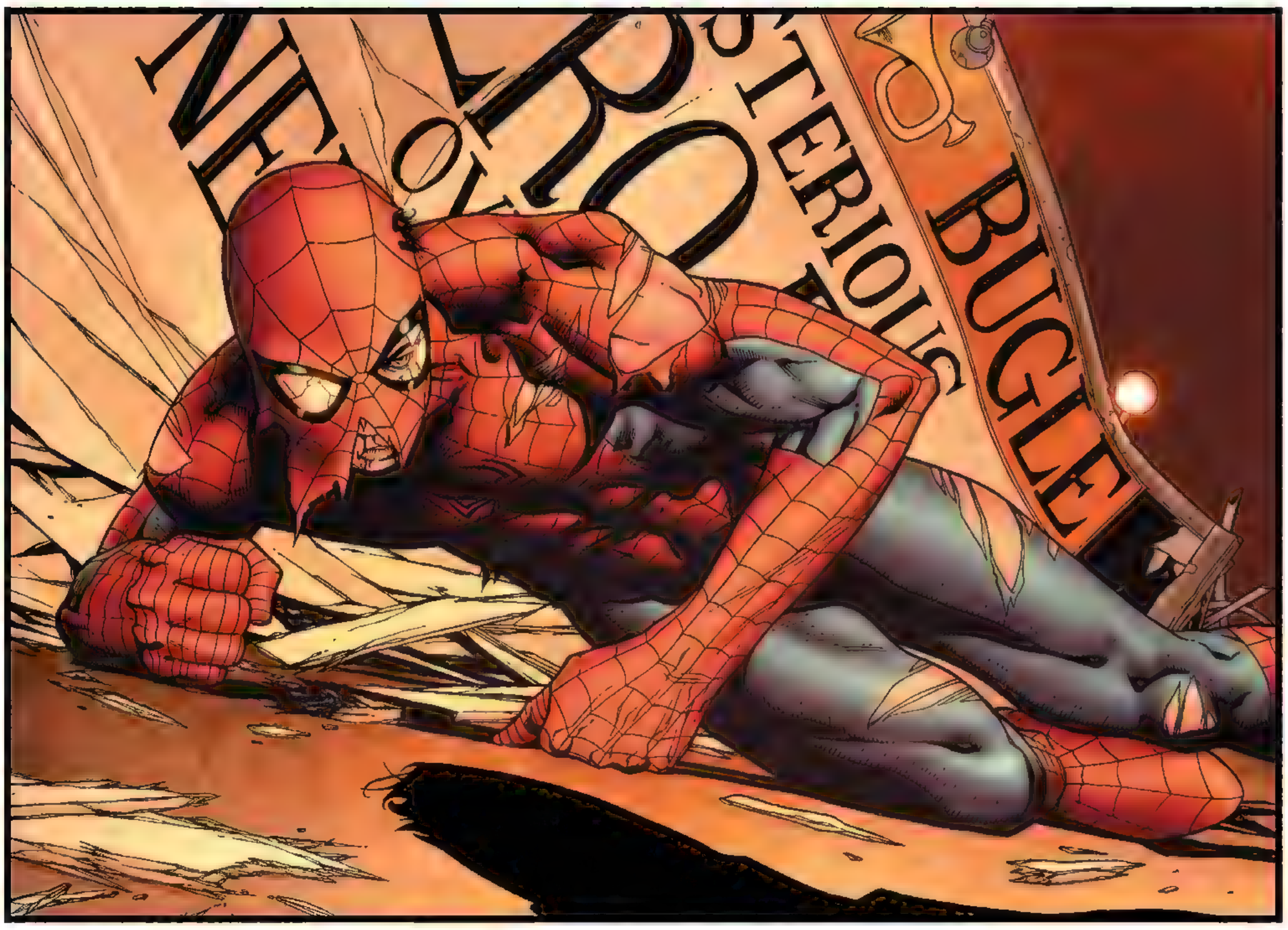
PREVIOUSLY IN MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN

"WILD BLUE YONDER"

PART VI OF VI



Peter Parker's life has been turned upside down. His house has been leveled by a super-villain so he's moved his family into a new pad—Avengers Tower…his summer-school teaching job fell through so he's finagled a summer job at the Daily Bugle…the Owl has placed a bounty on his head that The Absorbing Man and his mysterious female consultant are looking to collect…and if that weren't enough, the Bugle's new star reporter, Ethan Edwards, is actually an alien with enough power to conquer the world!

Years ago, a ship delivered baby Ethan to Earth where a kindly couple raised him, unaware of his alien heritage. Now, the Fantastic Four have learned that Ethan is a Skrull orphaned by planet destroyer Galactus! This revelation has sent Ethan into a confused rage, bending his mental stability to the breaking point.

Meanwhile in New York, Spider-Man discovered a new drug being pushed by the Owl and the Absorbing Man's treacherous consultant. She tricked Creel and then had his powdery remains distributed as the drug.

Now, the Absorbing Man has reconstituted and he's not too happy about being smoked up by deadbeat addicts. As Spider-Man confronts the Owl, Creel and Ethan are closing in...

WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	COLORIST	LETTERER
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THE LOUISIANA SWAMPS...

NOT THAT YOU AREN'T THE BRAINS OF THE ORGANIZATION AND ALL, REED...BUT WHAT THE HECK ARE WE DOING OUT HERE IN THE BACK OF THE BACKWOODS?

IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU PUNCHED THAT SKRULL SPACE CAPSULE FROM IOWA TO THE LOUISIANA SWAMP-LANDS.

BUT SHOULDN'T WE BE PURSUING ETHAN? ANYONE WITH POWERS THAT VAST UNDERGOING AN *IDENTITY CRISIS* IS GOING TO BE A MENACE TO HIMSELF AND OTHERS!

YEAH, AND WHY DIDN'T WE STOP AT A 7-11 FOR BUG SPRAY!

JOHNNY, I'M SURE IF YOU TURN UP YOUR BODY TEMPERATURE ANOTHER 50 DEGREES AND ELIMINATE ANY INSECTS--

AH HA! THERE IT IS!

BEFORE ALL HECK BROKE LOOSE, I WAS ON THE VERGE OF GETTING THIS TECHNOLOGY TO TELL ME WHICH POWERS ETHAN WAS ENHANCED WITH ON HIS TRIP TO EARTH. WITH ANY LUCK, WE'LL FIND A WAY TO SHUT THEM OFF.

WHAT ABOUT SPIDER-MAN? SHOULDN'T WE CALL HIM AND TELL HIM TO EXPECT COMPANY?

GOOD IDEA, BEN. I HOPE HE'S NOT TOO BUSY TO TAKE THE CALL.

MEANWHILE, IN NEWYORK...

THWIP

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY GUNS HAVE BEEN POINTED AT ME? DO YOU THINK *YOU'RE* GONNA GET THE LUCKY SHOT?

OW! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU *GOT* ME!

YOU FLY SLOWER THAN THE VULTURE!

SHRIK!

NOW YOU WILL LEARN--TO BEWARE THE WRATH OF THE OWL!

GIMME A BREAK.

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE DAREDEVIL DOESN'T BEAT YOU UP-- A LOT.

AND AS FOR *YOU*, I WOULDN'T HIT A GIRL.

WHUD

DIRECTLY.

OWL!!!

OH BOY.

UH, CREEL, BEFORE YOU FLY OFF THE HANDLE...

SHADDDUPPP!

KRUNCH

NOT GOOD.

WHY DON'T I LEAVE YOU TWO TO WORK OUT YOUR FRUSTRATIONS WITH EACH OTHER...

WHAP

NNOOO!!

TOO SLOW!

I'LL RIP THIS PLACE APART, OWL. I OWE YOU PAYBACK *BIG TIME!*

SEE, IF YOU WERE JUST GONNA GIVE HIM A NOOGIE, I'D SAY FINE. BUT *MURDER*, IT'S JUST WRONG.

YEAH? AND *WHO'S* GONNA STOP ME?

EXCUSE ME...

...BUT WE NEED TO *TALK.*

WILD BLUE YONDER

CONCLUSION

REGINALD HUDLIN WRITER	BILLY TAN PENCILS	JON SIBAL INKS	AVALON'S IAN HANNIN COLORS	VC'S CORY PETIT LETTERS	STEVE McNIVEN COVER	CORY SEDLMEIER ASST. EDITOR	AXEL ALONSO EDITOR	JOE QUESADA CHIEF	DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

YOU TALKING TO *ME?* OR *HIM?*

YEAH, AND WHO *ARE* YOU?

YOU SHUT UP!

YEOW!

LOOK "LEATHERFACE"...OR WHOEVER YOU ARE...I APPRECIATE THE HELP, BUT YOU COULD'VE *KILLED* HIM.

WHO *CARES?* WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING A MASKED VIGILANTE IF YOU CAN'T DO WHAT COPS CAN'T?

WHAM

I SEE. A *PUNISHER* FAN. GUESS THE LEATHER AND JACKBOOTS SHOULD HAVE CLUED ME IN.

I WAS TIRED OF MY COSTUMES RIPPING UP. SO I GOT SOMETHING A LOT STURDIER.

ETHAN!?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME.

AND CALL ME BY MY NEW CODENAME: *THE TILLER!*

THE "TILLER"?

YOU KNOW, LIKE IN THE BIBLE. I "TILL THE SOIL, SEPARATING THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF..."

WITH *THAT* OUTFIT, YOU'LL PROBABLY END UP BEING CALLED THE GIMP.

"GIMP"?

YOU KNOW, "THE GIMP"...? THE GUY IN THE LEATHER SUIT IN "PULP FICTION"...?

WAS THAT AN R-RATED MOVIE?

UH...SO YOU GONNA HELP ME RESCUE THIS GUY OR WHAT?

I HAVE BIGGER ISSUES THAN HELPING SOME CRIMINAL...

HEY!

UNF! I THOUGHT THAT JERK WOULD *NEVER* LEAVE!

GREAT. NOW I'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH *YOU.*

NO TIME FOR THAT NOW. I'M GONNA FIND THE OWL, KILL HIM, THEN COME BACK FOR YOU.

WHERE'S THE WATER MAIN...?

FWOOOSH

HEY-- +GLUG GLUG GLUG+

OH MAN... GUESS THAT'S THAT FOR THE MYSTERY LADY.

WONDER IF SHE TOLD ANY-ONE MY SECRET IDENTITY?

--OKAY, THAT WAS A SELFISH THOUGHT IN THE FACE OF--

RINNG

RINNG

HELLO...?

SO YOU *BEAT HIM?*

THAT YOU, OWL?

OF COURSE, YOU IDIOT.

WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM-- TIMBUKTU?

MORE LIKE FORT KNOX. BUT SAME IDEA. SO WHAT'S THE DEAL? DID YOU HANDLE CREEL?

TELL YOU WHAT, LET'S MEET AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT.

CLICK

'SCUSE ME, THAT'S YOUR OTHER LINE.

DON'T ANSWER MY PHONE!

IF I DIDN'T, WE WOULDN'T BE CHATTING, WOULD WE? HOLD ON.

HELLO.

SPIDER-MAN? IT'S REED RICHARDS.

I TOLD YOU, I HAVE THIS NEW PROGRAM, AND IT--

HOW DID YOU REACH ME HERE?

CUT TO THE CHASE, REED.

RIGHT. YOUR FRIEND ETHAN-- HE DIDN'T TAKE THE NEWS ABOUT BEING A SKRULL TOO WELL.

GEE. HADN'T NOTICED.

THERE'S MORE: WE INTERRUPTED SOME KIND OF *MIND-MELD* FROM HIS SPACECRAFT. I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE OF THE EXTENT OF IT, BUT I THINK ETHAN MAY HAVE BEEN SLIGHTLY BRAINWASHED. ONE THING'S FOR SURE:

"...HE'S IN A WORLD OF PAIN."

MEANWHILE, AT THE DAILY BUGLE...

SKRULLS LEVEL MIDT

UH... ETHAN...?

THEY CALL ME "THE TILLER."

REALLY? THEY DO? WHO?

OR "MORAL-MAN." YOU'RE A GIRL. WHAT DO YOU THINK? WHICH CONVEYS TRUST-WORTHINESS? I WANT TO COME OFF STRONG, BUT NOT POMPOUS.

EDWARDS! YOU ARE *NOT* ALLOWED TO USE BUGLE PROPERTY UNTIL I GET THAT EXCLUSIVE!

I'M RESEARCHING IT NOW.

WHY DIDN'T YOU *SAY SO?*

ALRIGHT, EVERYBODY, *BACK TO WORK!* LEAVE LEATHER LAD ALONE 'TIL HE GETS OFF DEADLINE!

OH NO... THAT'S WHO I AM...?

SKRULLS LEVEL MIDTOWN

MEANWHILE...

WHAT DO YOU *MEAN* YOU WON'T TAKE THE JOB?

C'MON OWL... YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE ABSORBING MAN. HE FOUGHT THOR AND WALKED AWAY. THE MONEY YOU'RE OFFERING'S GREAT, BUT I WANT TO SPEND IT ON MORE'N A NICE FUNERAL.

KRUNCH

THESE PUNKS!

ANY LUCK GETTING BULLSEYE'S NUMBER?

SORRY, BOSS, NO WORD BACK YET.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I MADE ALL THIS MONEY, BUT CAN'T BUY DECENT PROTECTION.

I THINK WE NEED TO GO AFTER SOME *REAL* HEAVY HITTERS, BOSS.

LIKE WHO?

I'M THINKING... THANOS. OR LOKI.

WHO *HAS* BEATEN THIS GUY?

I GUESS THERE'S ONLY ONE CHOICE...

YEAH...? YOU THINK THEY'LL TAKE A CHECK? OR CASH?

I'M *SURROUNDED* BY IDIOTS. I CAN'T BELIEVE CREEL KILLED MY ONE SMART ASSOCIATE...

FINALLY, A GOOD QUESTION. HMMMM....THOR HASN'T BEEN SEEN IN FOREVER. THE HULK IS TOO UNPREDICTABLE.

I WOULD CONSIDER PROTECTIVE CUSTODY, BUT THE AVENGERS DON'T EVEN EXIST ANYMORE.

TWO HOURS LATER...

KEEP OUT

ARE YOU *SURE* THEY'RE GONNA BE THERE, BOSS?

I MEAN, I'D HATE FOR YOU TO EXIT THE VEHICLE AND THE ABSORBING MAN'S WAITIN' FOR YA.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS ARE TRAINED IN STEALTH. BUT STILL... WHY DON'T *YOU* GET OUT FIRST?

NO, CREEL. BUT NO COPS EITHER.

-NOK NOK

C'MON OUT, OWL. I'M ALL YOU GOT.

WHERE ARE THE S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS?

ARE YOU HYDRA? AIM? FIN FANG FOOM? NOPE. YOU'RE SOME LOCAL HOOD WITH A BAD HAIRDO AND POINTY TEETH. YOUR REQUEST TO TURN IN STATE'S EVIDENCE GOT KICKED DOWN TO PROPER AUTHORITIES FOR A BAD GUY WITH YOUR LACK OF IMPORTANCE.

UFF! LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN'T STOP CREEL.

THAT'S WHY *I'M* HERE, SMARTY PANTS. I HAVE A *PLAN.* AND I'M THE ONLY GUY FAST ENOUGH TO PULL IT OFF.

"PLAN"? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

OWL!!!

RIGHT ON CUE!

YOU WERE USING ME AS *BAIT!*

SMASH

WHUMP

SMART ENOUGH TO FIND US, DUMB ENOUGH TO LET US GET AWAY. WHY DON'T YOU ABSORB A DOLPHIN OR SOMETHING ELSE SMARTER THAN YOU?

CRASH

YOU THINK THAT LITTLE DOOR IS GONNA *STOP* ME? AND YOU CALL *ME* STUPID?

HA! WAS THIS YOUR BIG TRAP? STEEL SPIKES?

KRACK

STOP RUNNIN', YA CHICKEN!

WHERE THE HECK *ARE* YA?

UP HERE, METAL HEAD!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS STUFF *IS*...BUT IT AIN'T STOPPIN' ME.

WHATEVER YOU THROW AT ME, I CAN USE IT AGAINST YOU.

OH YEAH, WHAT ABOUT *THIS?*

YA KIDDING ME. WHAT'S THE BIG DE--

WHOOSH

--AGK!

...HEY ...I FEEL FUNNY.

OH MAN! GOTTA MOVE *FAST!*

WHOOM

FIVE MINUTES LATER...

CRAZY STUNT, BUT IT WORKED.

HUH? I CAN'T *HEAR* A *THING!*

HOW'D YOU KNOW CREEL WOULDN'T KNOW THOSE TWO CHEMICALS COULDN'T MIX WITHOUT EXPLODING?

EASY. HE WAS DUMB.

OF COURSE, *I* VOLUNTEERED TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS COCKAMAMIE PLAN ONCE I TOLD IT TO YOU GUYS, SO I'M NOT MUCH SMARTER.

YEAH, WELL... WE'VE GOT A CLEANUP TEAM COMING.

GREAT. JUST KEEP THOSE 'COPTER BLADES SPINNING. THAT'LL DISSIPATE HIS PARTICLES FAR ENOUGH AWAY SO WHEN HE RE-FORMS I'LL BE RETIRED IN FLORIDA.

HOW ABOUT A... HOLD ON...

--GOTTA RUN. THERE'S SOME NUT IN BLACK LEATHER AND A CAPE TRYING TO BREAK INTO THE BAXTER BUILDING. IT'S ALL OVER THE NEWS.

SHEESH... I THINK THAT ONE'S *MINE*, TOO.

I'M GONNA NEED *BACKUP* FOR THIS ONE. GOT A PHONE ON THIS THING?

NEWS 13

RICHARDS!? ARE YOU *THERE?* WE NEED TO *TALK!*

YOU ARE AN UNAUTHORIZED VISITOR TO THE BAXTER BUILDING. STAND BACK OR DEFENSIVE MEASURES WILL PROCEED.

I NEED SOME INFORMATION. YOU CAN'T CALL ME A SKRULL AND GET AWAY WITH IT.

DEFENSIVE MEASURES STARTING IN 5, 4, 3, 2...

ZZZZZZAT

RICHARDS... ??ᔑ⊣ℸ∷ ?ᔑℸ∷??... SHOW YOURSELF--

--OR I'LL TEAR THIS PLACE APART!

WHAM

OH WELL, REED ALWAYS NEEDED MORE LIGHT IN HERE ANYWAY...

DON'T GO ANY FURTHER, ETHAN. IT'S *NOT* TOO LATE TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

WHOA! ZOOM IN ON THE GUY IN THE LEATHERS.

AVENGERS TOWER...

OUR EYE-IN-THE-SKY NEWSCENTER 'COPTER, WITH THIS JUST IN: WE DON'T KNOW WHO THIS MASKED MAN IS WHO'S LAID SIEGE TO THE BAXTER BUILDING, BUT HE SEEMS TO BE VERY POWERFUL INDEED...

AMAZINGLY ENOUGH, HE SEEMS TO BE FIGHTING SIX SUPER-POWERED HEROES AT ONCE!

JARVIS...?

THE FANTASTIC FOUR DON'T APPEAR TO BE HOME, BUT THEY CERTAINLY SEEM TO BE **NEEDED** IN THIS BATTLE!

MA'AM?

JARVIS, **LOOK** AT HIM...HIS FACE. HE'S CONFUSED, ANGRY, BUT HE'S NO MONSTER. HE'S JUST A **BOY**, LIKE PETER. PERHAPS I SHOULD...

I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY, MA'AM.

WHOA! WHO CAN STOP THIS GUY!?

ETHAN, STOP IT! THIS ISN'T *YOU*--I *KNOW* IT!

THMP

THMP

I TOLD YOU, HUMAN, IT'S TIL--UNF!

"HUMAN"? AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

A MURDEROUS SKRULL--OR DIDN'T YOU HEAR!?

SPLUNCH

WHAK

YOU OKAY...?

'BOUT AS GOOD AS YOU.

THAT BAD, HUH?

DINC

WHO--?

SON, WHAT ARE YOU *DOING*? YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT THESE GOOD PEOPLE.

"SON"...?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SON? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? TALK TO ME?

I-I...

I'M A MONSTER!

NO. I'VE SEEN MY SHARE OF MONSTERS, SON. AND YOU'RE NO MONSTER.

STAND DOWN....LET'S PLAY THIS OUT...

SHE'S RIGHT, ETHAN. YOU'RE A MAN. A GOOD MAN.

REALLY...?

SURE. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU CAME FROM. IT DOESN'T CHANGE WHO YOU ARE

I MEAN, DIDN'T YOU SEE "SHREK"...?

LISTEN, ETHAN: YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THAT NO ONE ELSE HERE HAS. A GIFT TO HEAL.

AND THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO NEED HEALING.

THE BAXTER BUILDING. THE NEXT MORNING...

...I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR DEFENDING OUR HOME WHILE WE WERE AWAY.

YA DID PRETTY GOOD, WEB-HEAD--EVEN THOUGH YOU NEEDED A LITTLE OLD LADY TO BAIL YOU OUT.

PSHAW, IT WAS NOTHING!

SPEAKING OF WHOM...JUST WHO *WAS* THAT LITTLE OLD LADY...?

ER...

UH M...

UH...

DAILY

GRANNY TO THE RESCUE!

MYSTERY WOMAN SAVES THE DAY AT BAXTER BUILDING!

SO WHERE'S ETHAN NOW?

SAID HE WANTED TO PUT HIS *HEALING POWER* TO GOOD USE.

PROBABLY JUST SOME OLD BROAD WITH A TV AND A SENSE OF CIVIC DUTY.

"HEALING POWER"...?

YEAH, BUT YOU *KNEW* THAT, REED.

UH...I DOUBLE-CHECKED ALL OF THE PROGRAMMING THE SKRULL SHIP GAVE HIM, SPIDER-MAN.

THERE'S NOTHING REMOTELY LIKE THAT IN HIS ENHANCED ABILITIES.

THEN...

"...WHERE *DID* HE GET THE POWER?"

Believe

THE END

MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN

SPIDER-MAN: THE OTHER: EVOLVE OR DIE

Beginning this October, SPIDER-MAN: THE OTHER A 12-part event!

Haunted by unsettling dreams, Peter Parker is disturbed by a growing sense of dread.

Shocking revelations are in store for Mary Jane and Aunt May.

And a past enemy Spider-Man cannot beat stands before him, threatening all.

OCTOBER

Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #1 – Part 1
Marvel Knights Spider-Man #19 – Part 2
Amazing Spider-Man #525 – Part 3
By Peter David, Mike Wieringo, Pat Lee & Mike Deodato, Jr.

NOVEMBER

Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #2 – Part 4
Marvel Knights Spider-Man #20 – Part 5
Amazing Spider-Man #526 – Part 6
By Reginald Hudlin, Mike Wieringo, Pat Lee & Mike Deodato, Jr.

DECEMBER

Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #3 – Part 7
Marvel Knights Spider-Man #21 – Part 8
Amazing Spider-Man #527 – Part 9
By J. Michael Straczynski, Mike Wieringo,
Pat Lee & Mike Deodato, Jr.

JANUARY

Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #4 – Part 10
Marvel Knights Spider-Man #22 – Part 11
Amazing Spider-Man #528 – Part 12
By Peter David & Mike Wieringo,
Reginald Hudlin & Pat Lee,
J. Michael Straczynki & Mike Deodato, Jr.

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